

THE BURLEY LINE



Is Peter our new 'Carp Whisperer'?



From the Editor's Desk

American writer Henry David Thoreau said, possibly after a day's angling, "Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing it is not fish they are after."

Important news is that, for those still using Australia Post, our PO Box has changed. Please take note.

The February club event proved successful for Peter – I understand employing the Charlie patented technique. Well done to him but also for his generosity in explaining the technique and evening donating one of the special, essential pieces of tackle to some potential members. We hope they join now.

We have a new section in our blog which will also appear here – Shaun has volunteered to provide a series of book reviews from his extensive library. I understand he is also amenable to his borrowing a book from you to read and write up – saving you the effort! I've promised to do some also from my less extensive library ... maybe next month?

I was fortunate enough to be invited up to a region that I'd not explored – the Barrington Tops. Notionally it was for deploying some water temperature loggers as part of 'citizen science' in support of trout research (though we also got to do some research with fly rod in hand). I'm also set to do similar with Monaro Acclimatisation Society locally too. A short report, including some of my drone photography, is here.

Some of our eagle eyed members pointed me to two interesting web articles.

Some activities outside the CAA schedule are coming out of COVID hibernation – check them out.

Coming Events

Meeting: 10th March

Claude is finalising arrangements for Jo Starling to speak on her 'fly gap year' where she spent one whole year exclusively fishing with fly. All the details and full description will come out from Lyall when confirmed. Definitely via Zoom, but I'm unsure if there will be an option to also attend Raiders. As usual 7:30.

Fly Tying: 24th March

Tying in preparation for the Tantangara trip. Claude is leading us to tie the Diawl Bach. On Zoom from 7:30 – more instructions via email.

Next Events

26th – 28th March 2021 – Tantangara (camping in the National Park – booking your site with NPWS is essential. Also important to notify Claude of your attendance.)

We've Moved Our PO Box

We've moved the PO Box from Civic to Hawker. If you are intending to use snail mail to send stuff to the club, the address is now PO Box 4115 HAWKER ACT 2614.

Lake Fishing Day at Lake Burley Griffin

Lyall and Rod

Saturday 13 February saw absolutely brilliant weather – generally sunny day with a cool breeze.

Rod, Peter K, Leon, John, Jason M and Lyall all attended at various periods over the day but most were not bothered by the necessity to leave comfortable chairs to land fish. There was of course one exception – Peter K.

(Ed: see photo of the month/cover image)

Cape Carp at Black Mountain Peninsula was fishing well for Peter who netted three sizeable carp which just kept coming.



Measured and photographed, they are certainly fish for the Catch Register to qualify for trophies!!!



Potential new members and ANU students Jack and Bob arrived after lunch following Jack's inquiry e-mail to CAA and Rod and Claude's warm welcome to come to the lake and meet some members before they decide to join.

Both of the guys had new spinning rods in hand and asked for a bit of guidance with rigging and fishing. Quick to leap in to mentor the guys for the remainder of the afternoon were Peter K and Mark S which was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who was able to join us and congratulations to Peter K who showed us all how it is done.

Book Reviews

A new section to *Burley Line* and indeed to our blog – with its [own category and menu item](#).

Shaun

So I seem to be constantly talking to people about books I'm reading that relate to fly fishing, providing recommendations, and occasionally books to save time by avoiding (You don't need to read Izaak Walton for example - I did, and there only a few relevant paragraphs of interest in the whole book). Various folk thought there'd be interest, so I'm all set to do a brief review of books I'd recommend on a range of subjects, prose and literary writing (like this month), historical works, technical fishing books, fly tying, entomology, maybe even non fishing volumes about the places we fish. To start off, a few story based books from my library.

<http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/category/bookreview/>

Ted Leeson. 2006, *The Habit of Rivers*

This book lives in my fishing truck, and fills in time when waiting for someone or something on the river. Many fly fishers try their hand at prose writing to varying degrees of success. Leeson sets the standard for the kind of imaginative writing that captures the ideas we all have but can't quite get the words out for. Highly recommended,

[Norman Maclean](#), 1989 (and other editions), *A River Runs Through It*

'The book' on which 'the movie' was based. It's a good read, but don't expect it to be a meditation on fly fishing beyond it being the chief recreation of the father and brothers around which the tale revolves. It's still worth picking up, and well, nobody wants to admit they haven't read it right?

Phillip Weigall, 2009 & 2011, *Fishing Season and Fishing Sense* (Two Volumes)

Phil's prose style is pretty clear and straightforward, not remotely flowery. He still manages to capture the reasons why we fish, and the feelings that go along with it. The local content is appealing, and Phil peppers his stories with advice and technique that make me want to get the highlighter pens out. If you can find a copy of *Trout Stories* from 2004, it's also written in a similar vein.

(Editor: - I've got that in my library ☺)

Grahame Wicks, 1999, *Trout Stream and Fly Rod*.

The book follows a familiar pattern, a series of stories based on a series of fishing trips. It's no less interesting as a result though - the main selling point for us is that it's very local. Grahame fishes the Cotter, Point Hut, Angle Crossing, Frying Pan. The stories are from his very early fishing career in the 70s, so there's a nice local history aspect here as well. The book is a local pressing and might be a little hard to find. I'm happy to lend my copy if this is the case.

Thomas McGuane, 2001, *The Longest Silence*.

Another 'series of trips' book, but more philosophical than most. If you like Leeson's book, this is similar. Mostly US fishing with the odd international trip.

Barrington Tops

Bill

Via my membership of Queanbeyan Anglers Club I've been involved in MAS acquiring water temperature loggers (part of the DPI Trout Strategy research program). The loggers have not been deployed yet, but when an invitation came from a fellow NSWCFCA committee member, Charles, to assist with deploying some loggers in the Barrington Tops for the local 'Barrington

Club' (a broad outdoor club with fishing a major aspect) I jumped at it. The following is my report.

Tue 9 Feb

We drive up via Gloucester.



Our first view of the Barrington Tops wilderness

We dropped into two sites where loggers have already been deployed ... nice camping opportunities on the Manning River and Dilbry River.

The Barrington Club have exclusive access to a number of privately stocked dams on a grazing property as well as accommodation.



The 'lodge' is a simple 3 room cabin.

I get to inspect the various dams as Charles monitors the flow between them. He is keen to get up to the upper dams. Steep climb and Charles takes pity on me and we don't climb to the final two – these were only stocked last year with fingerlings. Instead we focus on the lower (three) of these dams.

Lowest dam and we spot a nice fish cruising and rising. Go on to top dam to find small rises only and not responding. Then go to middle dam, limited surface action but when my wet fly rests on surface for a moment a strong fish takes it. Was fishing one of Jason Q's wee wets. Eventually land an impressive 40cm rainbow hen.



As it happens the Barrington Club only stock female rainbows – perhaps to prevent local reproduction.

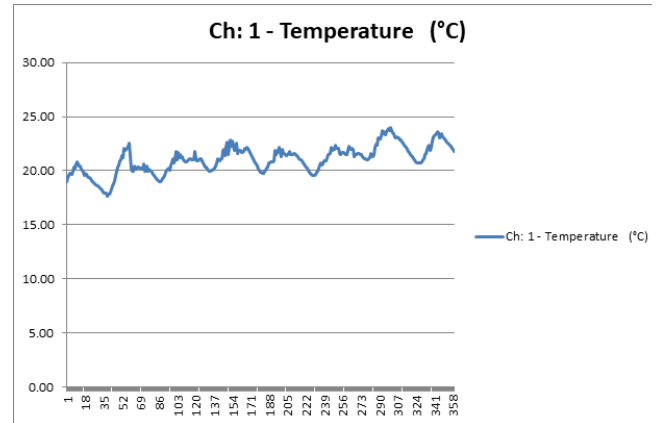
On my way down to the lower dam I spook a friendly wombat but then get too eager to get to the water. A big bow wave indicates I've now spooked a good sized fish. Charles lands a modest one.

Wed 10 Feb

Now for the real work placing the last two of Charles' loggers. Saxtby creek and Edwards Creek – tributaries of the Barrington River.



Charles preparing and logger in foreground



Example data from one of the lower dams.

Above is a snippet from a logger placed earlier in the big dam near the cabin. You can see the diurnal variation and the general increase as the days got warmer in Jan (peaked at 26C on a very hot Australia Day). A bit disturbing as trout are reputed to be stressed at 25C – saving grace is this logger is quite shallow and there would be cooler conditions in the deeper water – a topic for discussion with the DPI researchers.

Some time for a quick fish and we spotted one trout each that followed but no bite so head back home.

Drone photo of the one of the upper dams ... this is a 'spherical' panorama looking straight down then up to just above horizontal and repeating this while turning around 360 degrees. If you re-arrange the data so that straight down is one dot and 'just above horizontal' is the outer edge of

a circle you get the 'small planet' view below. I'm at 3 O'Clock and Charles at 1:30. The image is a bit disturbing since the surface of the water creates a mirror image of the surrounding trees.



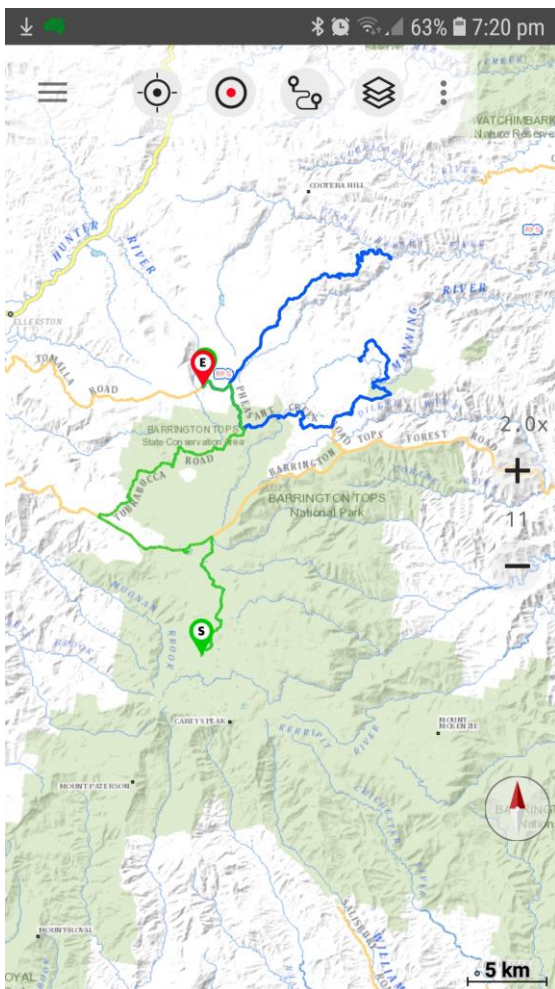
Not a lot of sign of fish today ... just platypus.

Thu 11 Feb

Today we explore areas further afield on the Upper Manning River (sometimes called Gumi River since it passes through the Gumi Plains) – water gauge camp site quite a hairy drive down a rutted track.



Spot a mob of brumbies but no fish on. We saw only one (good sized?) fish rise when we first hit the river.



GPS tracks for the past two days exploring an extended area of this part of the world. Today ended on Pigna Barney River (slow and slimy) junction with Tomalla Creek (fast, clean but very small with trees to trouble my casting). No fish but I get to make up for this by landing a couple of trout at dusk on the top dam (small but sight fished on dry fly so they count for more).

Fri 12 Feb

After a brisk walk up the hill to look at the Hunter River headwaters, we head back to Newcastle checking out bass waters.

All in all an excellent few days and many thanks to Charles who did all the catering and cooking (I washed up). Good experience for when the loggers get deployed locally. Plus I've had a comprehensive exposure to a good part of the Tops.

Our Resident Scientist, Jaime, Spotted This

Found in New Scientist [Humans have severely affected fish biodiversity in half of all rivers](#)

Jaime tells me that Australia is not as bad as other countries. Though our record with some native species is not as good as we'd like. Unfortunately, you'll have to get Jaime to bring in a printout of the full article to make your own judgement.

Spotted by Greg S

[Australian grayling found in Glenelg River after 'vanishing' a century ago](#)

Apparently you identify it by checking if it smells like cucumber.

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.

[Snowy Hydro 2.0 – access changes](#)

[Fly Tying 24 Feb 2021 – F Fly](#)

Claude's notes for the F Fly.

[Ginninderry and Bidgee Access](#)

Changes to access to the Bidgee with Ginninderry being developed.

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 in *Burley Line* 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 [via their archive](#). They also have a presence on [Facebook](#). The [key correspondence](#) is on their website.

Don't forget you can donate to the CFA by [becoming a 'Foundation Member'](#) 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.

The Mar 2121 Edition is [edit this ...](#). The more notable items:

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](#).

[February issue](#) has arrived. Interesting points:

- Pirtek Fishing Challenge is on – see also our listing below. This is a very worthwhile event supporting leading medical research organisations; the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia and The Peter Duncan Neurosciences Research Unit at St Vincent's Hospital.
- PFAS contamination class action by Jervis Bay community.

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 😊).

[12 Feb issue](#):

- Victorians are getting a say on the shape of their state fish stocking plan !!!10 million fish I 2022!!!
- New slot limit for black bream in Gippsland Lakes
- Macquarie Perch being stocked in north-east Victoria

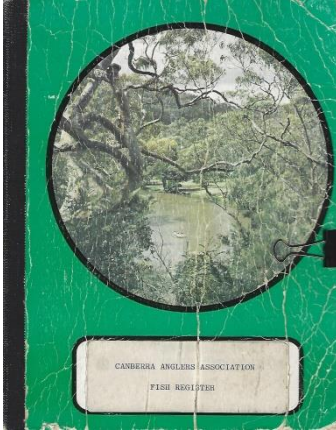
Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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
Mar	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Anaconda 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
Sat 17 – Sun 18 April 2021	Pirtek Fishing Challenge 2021 – “Fight a Fish for Medical Research’ – information at https://pirtekfishingchallenge.com.au/ . New 2 day format - \$240,000 in cash and prizes to be won
April 2021 for South Coast	NSW DPI Kids’ Fishing Workshops have restarted after the major COVID restrictions have passed. The South Coast saltwater events are scheduled, but Gaden is still to be determined 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) – 2021 was lost to COVID, https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-weekend-2020/
May	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet – similarly, you can expect Stefan to promote this for 2022 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/ Jason M is hunting down more details, but there was a suggestion that the 2020 event had been postponed to early 2021 to be conducted in addition to the 2021 Oct event.

Notable Fish Recorded

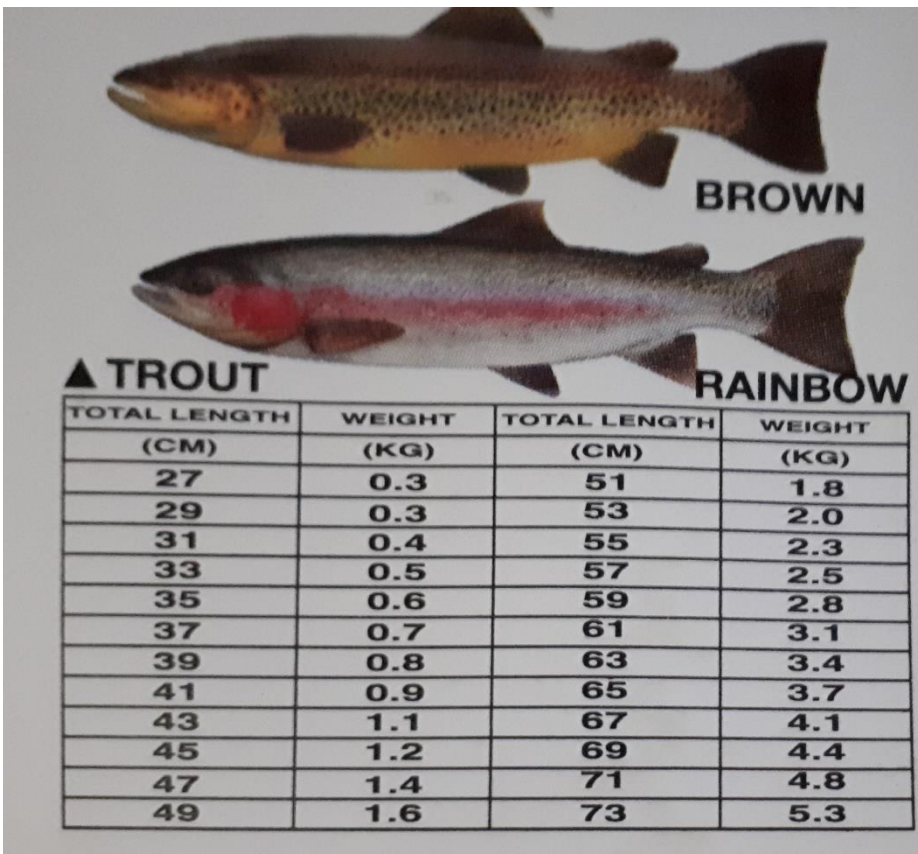
The intent of this segment is to encourage folk to get out fishing and share the joy. It is not the 'official record of catches' and so can include catches of interest that aren't eligible for trophies. The authoritative list for consideration for the [club trophies](#) is the little green book brought 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.

Length to Weight?

Has anyone seen this chart before? I wonder whether you find it very accurate – clearly the fish's condition would have to be a factor.



Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/ Date
Jason M	Yellowbelly	55cm (rates an excellent 70% on our Native Fish Rating Tool)	Lure	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
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
Ken	Brown trout	48cm	Fly	Jindabyne Trip, 29-31 Jan
Ken	Brown trout	32cm	Fly	Jindabyne Trip, 29-31 Jan
Ken	Rainbow trout	37cm	Fly	Jindabyne Trip, 29-31 Jan
Bill	Brown trout	33cm	Fly	Jindabyne Trip, 29-31 Jan
Bill	Rainbow trout	40cm	Fly	Barrington Tops 9 Feb

Contact Us

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

Burley Line contributions to:
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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.



Capital Fly Casting

www.capitalflycasting.com