

THE BURLEY LINE



Owen on the June Chill



From the Editor's Desk

Trout season is closed and there'll be no more events till next year ... get your ideas/volunteer to run an event in the 21-22 program to our hardworking Secretary – so far I've heard: no doubts Oct for Lyle Knowles, Dec coast trip, Feb Jindabyne, Apr Brindabellas. Step forward to volunteer ideas and willingness to organise. I wonder if someone might champion CAA involvement in the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Interclub in May.

June Chill report and some photos here.

I should have reported on a short trip to Vanity's that Peter and I undertook, but since the only fish were some mini-fish below the crossing there was little to report, except to say it was fun to hook the tackers and give them a free ride into the upper section of the river rather than fighting their way up the fish ladder.

Nathan Miles, the head researcher for our trout research program, gave a Zoom talk on Wed 2 June arranged by NSWCFCA. This was the second such talk and was well attended. One hopes that future talks will be as interesting. NSWCFCA is hoping to upload a video of the talk, meantime, I'd suggest much of the slide material came from the DPI Fisheries Research website. Nathan put that up on the chat. While I wasn't able to capture it, but I'm pretty sure it is this one

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/fresh-rec-fish-research>

NSWCFCA subsequently had a Zoom meeting with DPI's Jim Harnwell and Mr Bryan vanderWalt on the troubled Anglers Access website. Both Jim and Bryan are committed to energising this project and putting it onto a formal standing. NSWCFCA is creating a small group to represent angler's expectations of the site. The current version (I've seen at least three so far) is available on the page referred to above. If you have any comments, please pass them through Jason M (CAA delegate to NSWCFCA) or me.

The date for the Kid's fishing workshop at Jindabyne had been published, but is now showing as 'to be advised'... withdrawn after discussions with the hatchery manager. I've been advised that it is likely that next January there will be fishing workshops at Gaden.

Lots of stuff has gone up on the News Blog this month... don't forget you can subscribe to get an automatic email notification, rather than have to wait for the monthly newsletter. Also there's been some action on our Facebook page ... remember you don't need to be a Facebook subscriber to look.

In other matters here, some very interesting fly patterns from Mike. Also a report from our new gipsy Stefan and the old gipsy Ian.

Coming Events

Meeting: 14th July.

More details via email – I understand there is a 'dead rubber' footy match on that night. A social dinner, chat and beer might be the order of the day.

Fly Tying: 28th July

We've decided Zoom works best. From 7:30 – more instructions via email.

Next Events

Nothing till next season – don't forget to put 11 Aug into your diary AGM.

June Chill Report

We started off with 6 and half (Jason's son Luke :-)) attending but as we got closer to the date numbers plummeted – all for good reason I should add. In the end, Owen (see cover shot), Jason M and Bill headed down to the Buckenderra for a very cold June expedition.



The lake has dropped an amazing amount, so fishing actually at Buckenderra was a hazard to your health with man-eating mud on the banks.



While we waited for Jason to arrive on Saturday, Owen and Bill started off closer to the Eucumbene Dam wall (after having done a recce of the wall and nearby Braemar Bay on the Friday). Bill managed one on for a fleeting moment, but no other response. A shift to Braemar, rendezvousing with Jason saw Owen also having a touch but none landed, meanwhile fighting some high risk muddy banks.



Sunday and we decided to switch lakes to see if Kalkite might produce the goods. A good sized brown being landed by two bait anglers gave us some positive thoughts, but in the end the only fish landed on the trip was one of the yearling rainbows recently released in Jindabyne. Still it was fun chasing some fish actively feeding just below the surface ... Bill even had this success on the June fly tying subject – the Alexandra – albeit he is ashamed to say not the one he tied.

While not a success from the fish perspective, it was an enjoyable weekend. Many thanks to JM for finding the cottage, and to his mate Rob for permitting us the stay. Perhaps an option for another time – maybe when the lake is up a bit?

Spotted by Greg S

Greg

Sorry slim pickings recently. Impressive video of a sea eagle having some success.

<https://www.facebook.com/oceanmagazin/videos/4395844723772709>

(Ed: as I said to Greg, I saw one do this recently myself – dunno how they can take off after such a dunking)

More Thoughts from Mike

Mike

Australian #1 Footwear Fly .



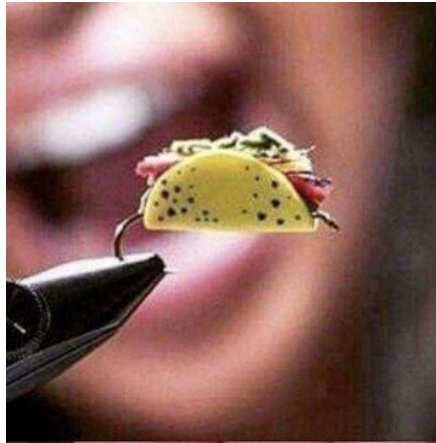
Found: Fly Rod near Cotter River

Not everyday you are
lucky enough to find a
free fly rod laying
around!



(Ed: I suspect more likely this photo was taken closer to Mike's birthplace ☺ The next one is clearly showing the Tex-Mex influence)

Sooo . . . Y'all never seen a Taco Fly ???



JQ is Being Outfished

Jason Q

Those flies are really cool! And the footprints give me the cold sweats... crocs are bad enough!

Here today I am out fished, that is also pretty funny.... Not ☹

A Bequest to CAA

Stuart

A person I knew, Rene Jez recently passed away. His daughter Alena has been kind enough to donate some angling items to CAA. She provided some words about Rene's life.

A mutual friend of Stuart and Rene, Wayne Henshke, noted "*I took Rene to Eucumbene in December 2020. He enjoyed the trip immensely, catching two trout to my score of nil. He enjoyed that too!*"

Alena said:

Born 1929 in the Czech Republic. Growing up in a country town he perfected catching trout by hand in the streams around his home. After World War 2 he moved to Prague where flying gliders and later fighter jets side tracked him from fish, only to return in the form of aquarium fish keeping and breeding, gathering knowledge of fish behaviour which he applied to his angling pursuits once he moved to Australia in 1970. He became passionate about fly fishing and with his Australian buddies enjoyed many fishing adventures in Australia (from Snowy Mountains to Darwin) and New Zealand. He made a point of adding fishing trips to his overseas travel, exploring Scandinavia and Central Europe.

The severe reduction of trout numbers in the Snowy Mountains provoked him to write a number of submissions to the NSW fisheries proposing solutions to a more successful restocking of trout population, based on his breeding experience with aquarium fish.

Rene lived a full and engaged life, enjoying his last fly fishing outing to L. Eucumbene 3 weeks before he passed away aged 91 and half on January 1st. He left behind in the freezer his last catch which was found and enjoyed by his daughter with fond memories. He also had fishing "gear" which is now in the process of finding new homes with people from the fishing club. May his passion and spirit go on.

Many thanks Alena, I'm sure the club joins me in thanking you in appreciation. Vale Rene Jez.

(Ed: Mike is currently doing a complete inventory pending committee decision on what will be done with the items. He has provided the following initial count:

20+ books.

5 rods (1 sweet glass fly, others spin).

5 reels (fly and spin).

4 fly lines.

1 tackle box with terminal tackle mainly sinkers.

1 box of fly tying materials (mainly traditional materials, feathers, etc.).)

Fly tying 23 Jun

The tie that night was led by Claude and was a classic fly much loved by JQ and Mark – the Alexandra. Some pointers on [our Fly-tying Blog](#). Here is one product from Claude:

Most impressive, even though Claude only had a right hand peacock sword and not the matching left hand one. (Much nicer than the one created by Editor)



1:49

76%

Photo

grizzlykingfly



Meanwhile, from Far North Queensland, JQ sent us another variant ... so many peacock swords!

Like Comment Share

Bookmark

Liked by **frbowers** and **others**

grizzlykingfly Alexandra

Dressing from Ray Bergman's Trout 1938... more

View all 14 comments

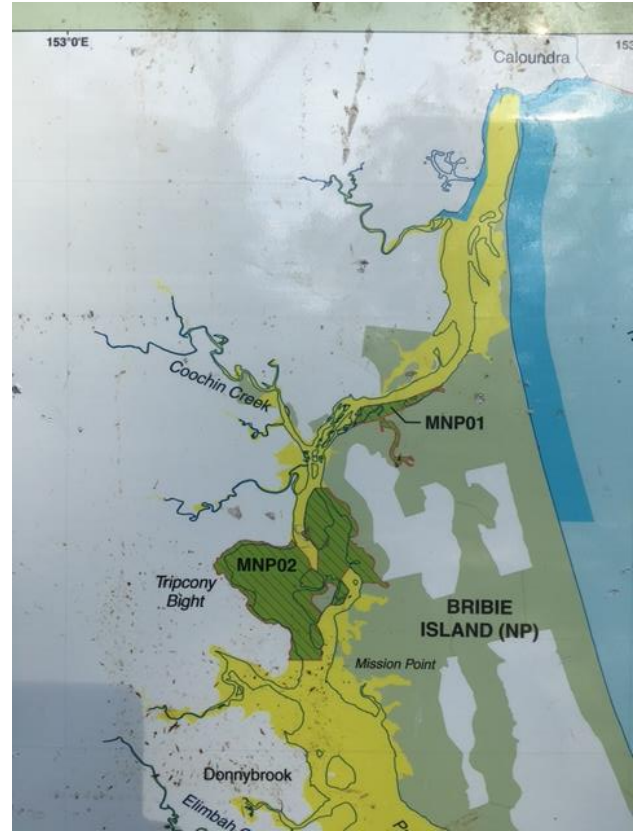
8 hours ago

Coochin Creek – mangrove fishing Mecca

Stefan

The creek runs straight off the Pumice Stone Passage Marine Park. Note limit of hooks, is a treble one hook? Does a lure with two treble limit the use of a rod with bait say – ah the vagaries of rules. Some fish from today.





Activities guide	General use zone	Habitat protection zone	Conservation park zone	Marine national park zone
Boating	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Line fishing	Yes	Yes	Yes ^a	No ^b
Trotting	Yes	Yes	Yes ^a	No ^b
Crabbing	Yes	Yes	Yes ^c	No ^b
Bait gathering	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ^b
Bait netting	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ^b
Netting (other than bait netting)	Yes	Yes	No ^b	No ^b
Limited spearfishing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No ^b
Limited collecting	Yes ^d	Yes ^d	Yes ^d	No ^b
Trawling	Yes	No	No ^b	No ^b

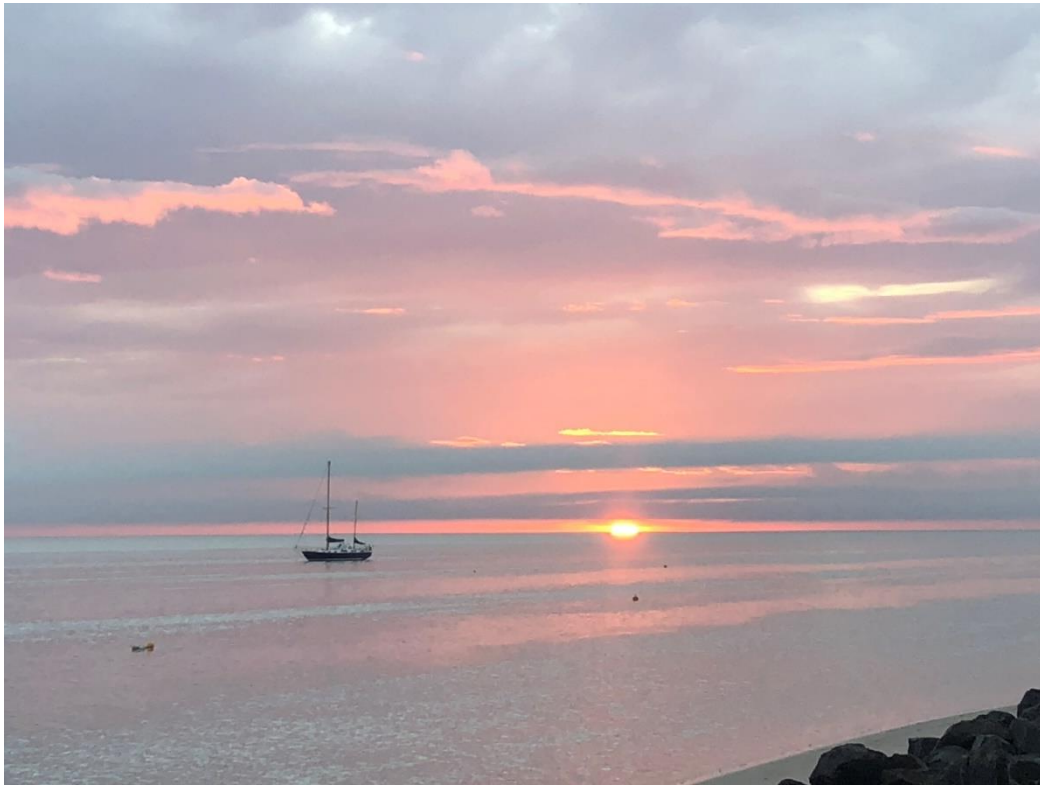
NOTES:
a: Up to two lines and a maximum of two hooks per angler
b: All equipment must be stowed or secured
c: Maximum of four pots per person
d: No coral. Limits apply to species and equipment used

This is not an exhaustive list. For full details about the activities allowed in Moreton Bay Marine Park, refer to the Marine Parks (Moreton Bay) Zoning Plan 2008.

Beautiful Burrum Heads

Ian

I'm on my annual (except Covid 2020) winter escape to Queensland. No fish photos this time because you all know what they look like anyway. Burrum is about 300 km from Brisbane, just north of Hervey Bay. I'm going to talk about bait fishing, so flyfishing purists should stop reading now.



I'm camped here for seven weeks next to my friends Neil and Joan. Neil has a 3.4 metre Stesl tinnie and we go out 4 or 5 days each week. My day starts with a coffee around 6:30am to watch the sunrise over Fraser Island. It's different each day but always special.

We generally launch the boat around 7am and return around midday. We go up the Burrum River or the Gregory and our main target is always whiting. Yabbies (called

nippers in NSW) are our preferred bait and are easily found. The boat is set up for anchored fishing with two seats facing the stern and two Berkeley rod holders each side.



We use 6ft Ugly Stik rods and I have Pflueger Salt reels with 10lb braid and mono leader with an 8lb trace. I mostly use Mustad no 6 long shank hooks. I have tried octopus and circle hooks which work well but I find it difficult to put yabbies on them.

The river is mostly mangrove lined and there are many islands. It is also a maze of sandbars, so navigation gets better with experience. The propellers on most boats start off black but are soon polished silver from encounters with sand.

We have many favourite spots, often near mangroves or sandbars and perhaps close to a drop off or in a deeper hole.



We keep the baits moving, usually casting one out to the side so the current will swing it round. The other will be cast straight back, with one two frequent winds to move the bait. If we are near a flathead location a slow retrieve/pause will often work.

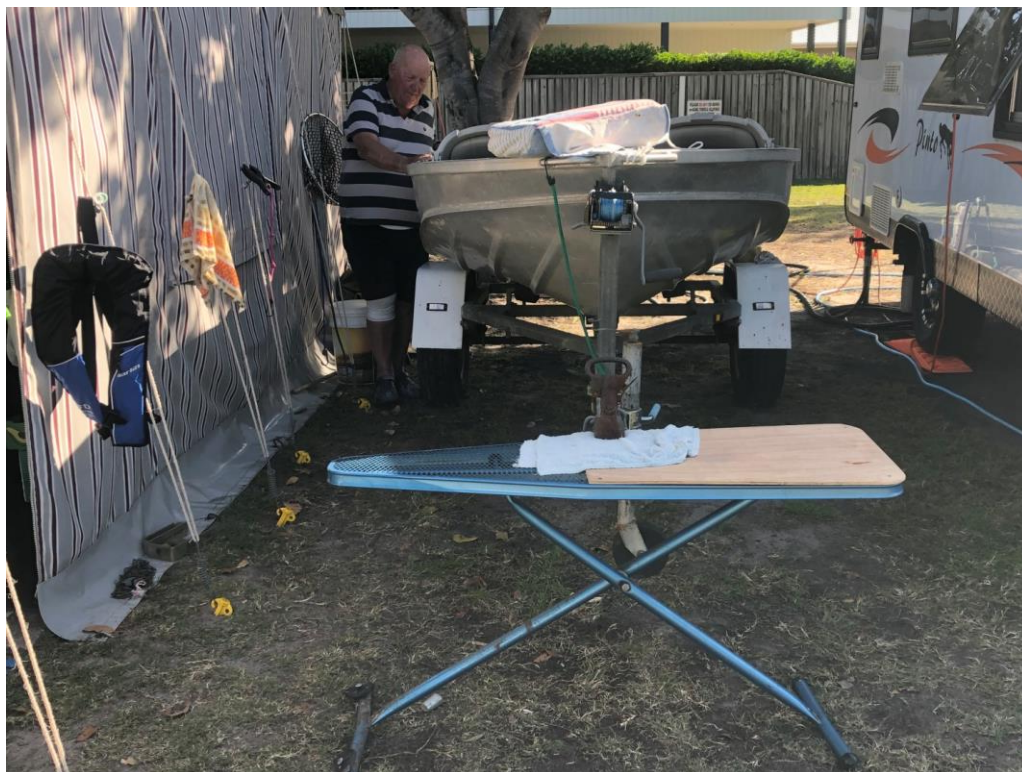
While whiting are our target these techniques catch a variety of species, not all of them edible! So far this year we have caught whiting, bream (yellowfin and black), catfish, estuary cod, flathead (dusky and bartail), flounder, garfish, grunter (javelin fish), herring, leatherjacket, Moses perch, stingrays, tarwhine, toads, tusk fish, butterfly fish, one we call a brown stripey and mud and blue swimmer crabs. The mud crabs were notable because we each got one to the boat on the same day, in different parts of the river, they were both male, and well above the minimum size. We often see turtles in the river and sometimes dolphins. There are always eagles and kites circling above.



When we get back each day, I clean the fish and Neil cleans the boat. There used to be wooden cleaning tables at the river end of the caravan park. Last year these were deemed too rickety and were removed. Apparently they won't be replaced because new ones would have to be connected to the sewerage? In true Aussie style there is a solution. Here's Joan scaling the day's whiting catch before I fillet them.



I don't think there's an ironing board left in Hervey Bay's op shops. They have other uses too, as Neil raise the front of the boat to hose it out.



Our deal is that Neil cleans the boat and I clean the fish. After that, and before happy hour, I often go for a walk along the waterfront. There are reports of crocodiles in the river but so far these have turned out to be seals, dugongs or even a log.



This house at Serenia Beach was much further from the water when I first saw it 14 years ago. There is still a rusty star picket about 50 metres out in the water which used to have a lot number on it from the original land survey.



Happy hour generally starts about 4:30pm and finishes after sunset, which can be as special as the sunrises.



The perfect finish to a Burrum day often follows - crumbed whiting and a glass or two of wine.

More on the Mouse Plague

Last month I wondered whether the mouse plague might see fish responding – and thus an opportunity to [try out mouse](#) flies. The trusty [ABC has reported](#) there is evidence that Murray Cod out west are taking advantage of this new food source but cites concern over the possible impact of NSW Govt proposal to field a seriously poisonous mouse bait. Caution, some grisly photos of the contents of cod innards.

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.



[Gate Installed at Paddy's Corner – Thredbo River near Jindabyne](#)

MAS acts as the trustee for Paddy's Corner reserve. A gate has recently been installed – read the blog to understand the reasons and also how the gate will be used.

[DPI Kid's Fishing Workshops](#)

The kid's workshops are progressing. Jindabyne dates appeared for Sep but seemed to have disappeared recently.

[Providence Portal Works Complete](#)

I stuffed up last month in issue 168 – I missed one news blog item covering [the completion of the Providence Portal works](#). Re-opening the portal flow from Tantangara was deliberately delayed till after trout season's closure via agreement by Snowy Hydro to a request from MAS. The intent was to ensure no impact on spawning run fishing. This post was supplemented by [another](#) with a photo of the completed repair job.



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 to Facebook, click on 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 longer-term interest – often that'll mean nothing in any particular month, but I'll keep the placemaker.

Mouse Poison Use Averted

Potential impact on fish from the use of the bromadiolone poison has been averted partly through lobbying by NSWCFR.

JM With End of Season Success

Jason headed up to the mountains for a last hurrah before the season closed – nice brown here on video – including some sub-surface.

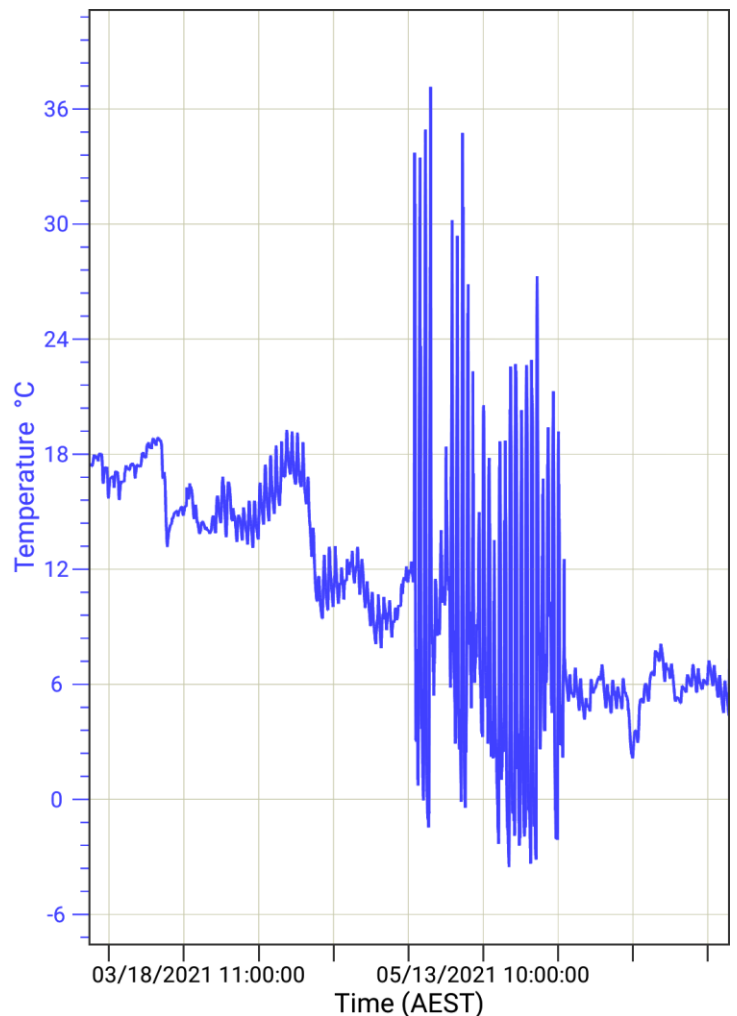


News from MAS

After the June Chill I helped out MAS with checking up on the temperature loggers we've

deployed over a number of premier streams in the Monaro. Such were the floods that one logger was thrown up onto the bank ... you can tell when that was in the graph here. Another one was lost, perhaps someone might find it in the Snowy River one day!. One graph showed water steady on about 3C or a few days – “Oh yeah, that must have been when we got that foot of snow” remarked the property owner.

The data will be used by MAS to understand the temperature dynamics of the local rivers and data shared with DPI trout researchers.



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](#), a useful calendar of events and recent videos are 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 [June 2021 Edition](#) has arrived and was reported on our news blog. Hot items were:

- **Growing alarm that mouse poison bromadiolone will affect native fish.** NSWCFCA reflect on the concerns of the NSW Farmer's Association about possible side effects from the NSW Government attempts to poison the mouse plague. Readers might note that the responsible minister is Adam Marshall ... also minister for fisheries.
- **No bait in lure and fly-only trout waters.** just a reminder given the increased interest towards stream closure.
- **New Australian fly tying book by Rob Flower**
- **Grant to improve ACT's recreational fishing, camping facilities.** this was news to me. Improvements at Blue Range Hut and Cotter.
- **Climate change drives down oxygen levels in lakes worldwide.** a credible report given it was published in *Nature*.

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 [June Edition](#) has arrived and also reported on our newsblog. Some good freshwater items plus local saltwater matters.

- Trout Cod review in South West
- More concerns about the poison being deployed against the mouse plague

- Sell off of crown land that would have closed access to Tuross Lake via Cooper's Island has been stopped
- Carp spread worsened by recent floods
- Contacts for fisheries compliance officers

Fisheries Victoria News – ‘Nibbles’

Remember you can subscribe yourself, here is the [link](#). 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 ☺). Top items were:

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
Dates to be advised for Jindabyne:	<p>NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops have restarted after the major COVID restrictions have passed in NSW. Hmm, dates for Jindabyne had been published for 21-22 Sep, but they are now showing TBA. There was a date put forward regarding Gaden/Jindabyne but after discussions with the hatchery manager that date had to be withdrawn unfortunately.</p> <p>It is likely that next January there will be fishing workshops at Gaden.</p> <p>https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</p>
Sun 10 Oct	Go Fishing Day NSW version. https://gonefishingday.com.au/
Recent advice is that this is now scheduled for Dec	<p>Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Anaconda Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants.</p> <p>The word is that there'll be a special prize exclusively for fly anglers. Here are some pages related to the 2020 event</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage/posts/2749280708483144</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage/posts/2820574901353724</p>
	These have been annual regulars in the past
Feb	<p>the Thredbo fly fishing expo (free event) – 2021 was lost to COVID,</p> <p>https://www.thredbo.com.au/events/fly-fishing-weekend-2020/</p>

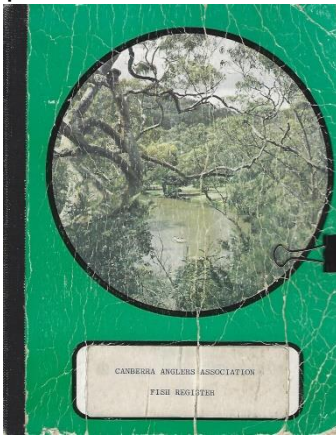
Fri 29 Apr
to Sun 1
May

NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet – similarly, you can possibly 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/>

Notable Fish Recorded

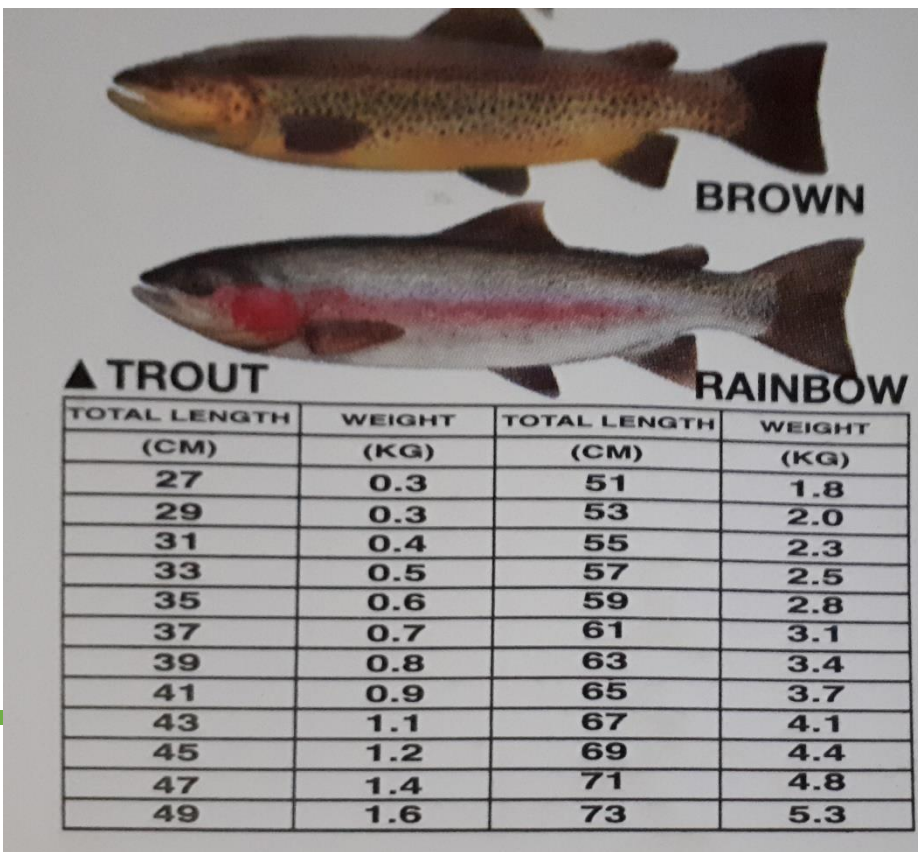
The intent of this segment is to encourage folk to get out fishing and share the joy. It is not the 'official record of catches' and so can include catches of interest that aren't eligible for trophies. The authoritative list for consideration for the [club trophies](#) is the little green book brought 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
Bill	A few Rainbow trout	Up to 40cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene 27,28 Feb
Claude	Rainbow and Brown	34cm and 50cm respectively	Fly	Lake Tantangara CAA Event, 26-28 Mar
Ken	8 Rainbows	Best two at 36cm	Fly	Lake Tantangara CAA Event, 26-28 Mar
Jason	Brown	45cm	Lure	Lake Tantangara CAA Event, 26-28 Mar
Bill	Rainbow	25cm	Fly	Lake Tantangara CAA Event, 26-28 Mar
Lyall	Rainbow	55cm	Fly	Tumut River 1 May
JQ	Rainbows and Browns	20 odd with best ???3??cm	Fly	A little known stream in the Brindabellas, 6 May

Mike	Rainbows and Browns	several with best ??23??cm	Fly	A little known stream in the Brindabellas, 6 May
Bill	Rainbows	four with best 27 and 29cm	Fly	A little known stream in the Brindabellas, 6 May
Mike	Rainbow	30+cm	Dry Fly	Eucumbene River 4 Jun

Contact Us

Canberra Anglers Association Inc.

GPO Box 2237
Canberra City, ACT, 2601

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

Burley Line contributions to:
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 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