

# The Burley Line

Jul 2015



*A very atmospheric image from Stefan – Tumut Outing May 2015*

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**Newsletter of the CANBERRA ANGLER'S ASSOCIATION  
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## From the Editor's Desk

JQ and I welcome your comments on how we are doing and what we should do differently. Please email [newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto:newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au).

## Coming Events

### Next Meetings:

**Jul meeting date change.** July meeting will be delayed by one week and occur on Wed 15 July rather than the 8th. Usual time of 7:30. Peter Hayes has been invited to speak to the club – should be a very informative night.

Back to routine on 12 Aug – usual time of 7:30pm at Raiders Weston Club. This is our Annual General Meeting – don't be concerned that you'll be forced onto the committee, all the key jobs will have some nominees already volunteered. There'll be some free nibbles and drinks available.

### Next Events:

24 Jun – Fly tying planned for usual time of 7:30pm at the Raiders Weston Club to be run by Geoff. Pattern is yet to be determined but will likely be a saltwater pattern (something about silicone comes to mind. Briefing material on our [fly tying page](#).

No outings currently planned for July or August – stay rugged up!

For your diary – Thu 10 Sep (ie the day after our September meeting) – the return to Canberra of the ever-popular Rise film festival. 8:30PM at Greater Union theatre at Manuka.

For our female members, we received a promotional email for 15th Reel Women Barra Classic 29 Apr-1 May Dundee Beach Northern Territory – more information at [www.reelwomen.com.au](http://www.reelwomen.com.au).

## Tips From Members for Members

This month this is a 'Lefty Tip' – not from Lefty Kreh but rather from one of our own molly-dookers Jason M giving a hint for any fellow left-handers:

### *Lefty Tip*

*For years I have been wondering about if the shape of a snake eye on the fly rod affects the line memory, noting mine rides up from the tip away from me (to the left), rather than inwards, and what affect that might have. Peter Hayes notes to count the guides to ensure you don't miss one, yet despite paying close attention when rigging up, I would often miss a guide.*

*One day recently I rigged up like a right-hander, with the rod in my right hand. Not only was I then using my dextrous hand to run the line, but I was also able to see it better in the guides rather than it*



*hiding behind the spine and guide. So my tip is for left-handed casters to put the rod on your right, and use your left hand to run the line.*

*...one day I'll make some left-handed snake guides.*

## CAA Fly Casting Discovery Journey

The second instalment was published soon after the Jun Burley Lines, this covers setup of rod, reel, line and knots – fly line to backing, reel etc, leaders and formula, braided loops, making your own welded loops, sighters etc. The third instalment has been uploaded, it covers casting hints from our resident Certified Casting Instructure. The entire collection is available [here](#).

## Our New Boat Motor

A photo of the new motor with cover off to show all the 'governors' for the petrolheads amongst us.

Members are reminded that to both promote the new motor, and run it in, take advantage of free hire of the club boat (including the trolling motor and battery) to give it a try and enjoy these lovely autumn/winter days before the cod season closes. The boat's much dryer than a kayak for chasing redfin, carp and natives around the lakes. Some kids' lifejackets are also available.





## Report from the Tumut Trip from Stefan

Stefan has prepared his usual comprehensive and thoughtful report ... should be a fishing writer:

Heading south west toward Tumut, as the sun is struggling to cast its last weak rays over the horizon in late autumn, is always special! The colours of the Brindabella Mountains show their best at this time. Spectacularly huge bleached trunks of sadly dead mountain ash contrast starkly against the silver grey of resurgent new growth with jutting rock boulders here and there, all bathed in the afternoon glow, are a reminder that our planet has a will to repair. I have made the journey to Tumut this way now for quite a few years and have just loved to note the change as the years have passed since the catastrophe of a decade ago. That alone is worth the weekend away.

However, as fishing was the main purpose of the trip, so here are a few notes.

The weekend as usual served up a perfect weather, with a large high dominating. The mornings were very cold, but the days were wind still and sunny, perfect for the use of a delicate fly. The report from the locals was that there were fish to be had and that the river was running particularly low, giving large pools of water to search.

The first evening was spent preparing flies under tutelage in one of Alan's fly tying master classes. Covered were emerger and nymph patterns, stressed was the need to acquire the skills at tying onto the smallest of hooks, as Tumut trout are cautious by nature. By all reports the flies were a success the next day. All this was of course ably assisted with delightful fare and drink.



Unbeknown to us, the waters this weekend also were being used by the NSW Fly championships and so we had to select sections so as not to disturb their activities. This prompted us to access a slightly different section of stream further up than previously and this proved good with a number of nice takes.



The day's fishing was a delight, with small periods of activity during the day and a nice rise just on dusk. As the river was low, the possibility of wading up the main flow line made up-and-across casting easy and this ensured being able to approach some unwary fish facing into the flow. Fish taking fly off the surface -what a buzz!



Definitely the best conditions in a few years.



In the evening we retired to the town's watering hole for a bit of convivial fare and company, what a perfect way to end the day.

Attended:- Stefan, Alan, Lyall, Steve, Kelly, Simon and one new chum



(Editor: we later got the very cute photo of Kelly's new bub relaxing on the banks of the Tumut while dad Simon tries his hand plus a selfie from Kelly).



## Reports on Late Season on the Eucumbene River

Been getting a lot of reports on the situation at Denison – mostly not comfortable. On Wednesday (27 May) we heard of over 50 cars. Rumour for Friday and Saturday was 75+. NRMA was there in full swing unbogging and restarting flat batteries. One email spoke about having to report a group of 5 men fishing a particular pool with over 8 fish landed in an hour and not one returned to the water. Police were onsite (Glory Hole) as were Fisheries and they investigated the claims as soon as reported. Good to see the authorities in place but sad to hear that they've been needed.

### Report from Jason M

*Weren't able to go up for the June Chill/long weekend/closing outing but Geoff and I managed to take one day off and go up on the Friday. Yep, 'Chill' was the apt word when we arrived before dawn and it was lucky I had dressed for the conditions. Thankfully only a few cars at Providence/Denison but unfortunately this reflected the fish situation. Spotted a few but finally decided to head up into the headwaters of the Murrumbidgee. Saw more brumbies than fish but the scenery made up for it.*



*Moon setting over Denison*



*Geoff on the water – nice cast, deserved a fish*

## **Report from Jason Q on the Weeks Before Closing**

*Writers block is real. Suffering structure for my journey document and need to take a few photos to put it all together. Wishing I was still fishing!*

*Euc was just a misery with people ... but we found fish to 5lb. We fished with just a dropper of 3-4 split shots then globug and nymph trailing. Messy when you fudged a cast but worth it being in the zone.*

*There's plenty of fish from the tree line and above.*







*We decided to fish the Murrumbidgee to get away from the crowds, and a good decision at that when we smashed little rainbows for two days. Much more fun catching little fish who love to fight more out of the water than in! Not a soul to be seen the whole time we were on there.*

*If you fish the Murrumbidgee there are some nice swampy areas. Don't walk through them you'll be to your crutch in no time and will muddy the clear water in milliseconds! Stand back for 15 mins and watch from the high bank.. There were multiple fish cruising these shallows and we nailed two in a row. Keep low and it's a lot of fun!!*

*Initially we fished dual nymphs under indicator – trout candy and one similar to Nathan's but with a pink collar. Managed a few on this setup. Went to glo bug after a while and got nothing! Went back to two nymphs but lost the indicator and French nymphed them out (camou 9mtr leader in pink). Ask Nathan he may have a few in stock. Got pretty windy for lobbing nymphs so we swapped out that for some beadhead woolly buggers and fished them by just swinging them. This was actually very productive and on sunset because there were no rises to sight fish to we cleaned up! Work an area with the swing then move three steps down stream. Work the swing and then another three steps. Over 20 fish landed for the trip.*



*Pic of my first client on the Eucumbene ... Kidding it's my Brother in-law!*

## **Motoring Along**

Jason M was keen to continue the running in of our new motor so accepted the invite to get onto the water and suss out the new addition. Suffice to say that Lake Burley Griffin is pretty cold this time of year, especially when the sun sets behind Black Mountain. The sounder indicated fish on a number of occasions, but I suspect they're as doggo as my gold fish in the outdoor pond. Anyway a good hour on the water getting my eye in casting to snags – at least I got all of my gear back not like recently at Ulladulla!



*“Hmm Jason, do you really think this SPOT location reporting gadget is really needed?” – was topic of Jason’s talk to June meeting.*



*“Aren't you supposed to hold onto the tiller?”*

## Plenty of bows around – Report from Jason Q

*Sent: Saturday, 20 June 2015 8:30 PM*

*To: Bill*

*Subject: Plenty of bows around...*



*We took 3 to make up some pate.*

*My 'Watch on Deck' fell asleep and left it up to me to take in the sights and didn't I witness some horrid weather!!*

*Missy and I called a flying visit to Euc to clear the mind, breath in some fresh air and try land fish..*

*5x Rainbows and a tiddler Brown before we'd even stopped for lunch! Sadly we didn't find fish for the rest of the day..*





*Some may know the location we fished by the distinct rocky outcrops..*

*Also near dropped the phone in for a quick release selfie!!*

*Chat soon*

*JQ*

## Remote Area Communication/Emergencies

At the June meeting, our resident ‘gadget dude’ and treasurer (Jason M) gave a talk to advise members on our options for providing communications in the remote areas we often fish including the UHF CBs (walkie talkies) that we have typically been using. A summary have been uploaded to our [“useful links”](#) page. The talk covered:

- Search and Rescue Beacons – the use the SAR satellites to broadcast emergency signals for rescue
- Other Satellite Beacons – Use commercial satellite networks to send emergency and other non-emergency limited texts. Usually transmit only (cannot receive messages)
- Satellite Hubs – small portable satellite internet devices to provide for remote connectivity to smart phones
- Satellite Phones – Dedicated handsets, often GSM capable when it is available, but able to call and text to commercial satellites
- Radios – a variety of public (Citizens Band, Australian-specific) and licensed frequencies for land and marine use. Repeaters also exist to improve coverage.

There are still plenty of handouts, stickers and cards. See Jason M for some. We may try some UHF radio practice after the Hayes talk next meeting to get the most out of members’ radios.

## Heard on ABC Radio National

A moment ago, my wife chanced on this episode of “Earshot” and brought in her radio. Offers a thoughtful and interesting listen while we wait to get onto the water again (click [here](#)). The summary says “This dip into the piscine world features writing inspired by fish and fishing, as well as conversations with passionate anglers Rob Sitch, comedian and creator of television



series such as Frontline and The Hollowmen, as well as David Higginbotham, chippie and the grandson of a former Australian fly-fishing champion.”

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the ABC Radio National website. The page title is "The Compleat Angler" under the "Earshot" program. The URL is www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/earshot/angler/6511532. The page features a navigation menu with options like Programs, Guide, Subjects, Features, RNTV, Podcasts, Transcripts, and About. Below the navigation, there are links for "Program Home", "Past Programs", "Features", "Subscribe", "Contact Us", and "About Us". The main content area includes a large image of a person fishing in a forested area, a quote by Norman Maclean, and a sidebar with program details and a list of other programs.

**Earshot** Program Home Past Programs Features Subscribe Contact Us About Us

## The Compleat Angler

Listen now Download audio

Tuesday 9 June 2015 11:35AM

Monday to Thursday 11am  
Repeated: Saturday 8pm, Sunday 1pm and 9pm  
Presented by David Rutledge

**IN THIS PROGRAM**

A wartime tale set at sea, and the lure of fishing - Tuesday 9 June 2015

Listen Download

Dad's Navy - The Untold Story of the Merchant Navy in WW2  
11:05 AM

The Compleat Angler  
11:35 AM

IMAGE: FOR MANY ANGLERS, THE ACTUAL CATCHING OF FISH HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PLEASURE OF THE EXPERIENCE (CAVAN IMAGES/GETTY)

*"My father was very sure about certain matters pertaining to the universe. To him, all good things—trout as well as eternal salvation—come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy."* Norman Maclean

Recreational fishing is a popular pastime, and one which seems to inspire writing: there is

## CRFA News

Still working on resolution on ACT Government policy on stocking in local waters. CRFA has also been engaged with a University of Canberra research program into cod in the Murrumbidgee – specifically exploring the utility of angler reporting for estimating cod populations.



## NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers News

Full issue for June is [here](#) and July is [here](#). Some hot topics:



## Expressions of interest called for new Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council

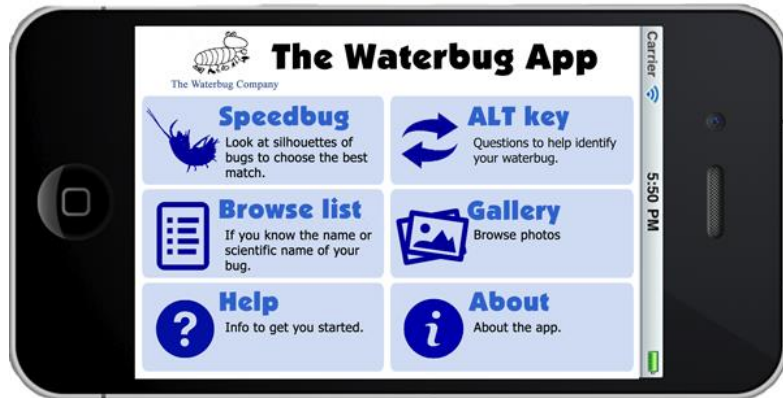
NSW Minister for Primary Industries, Niall Blair, has confirmed a new advisory body, Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council, will be established to provide independent advice to Government on key recreational fishing issues in NSW. “I am now calling on regional recreational fishers to nominate for appointment to the Council, to ensure that we have strong representation across the recreational fishing sector.” The new Council will include eight regional members and two members with expertise in spearfishing and charter boat fishing.



An Expression of Interest information package is now available at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/consultation](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/consultation) or email [rfnsw.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rfnsw.enquiries@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or call (02) 9741 4722.

Expressions of interest close 7 July 2015.

## Aquatic bug phone app



The authors of *The Waterbug Book* (available from [the FlyLife online shop](http://theFlyLife.com.au) ) have released a handy phone app for fast basic field identification of aquatic bugs in Southeast Australia's streams, lakes and wetlands. For the fly-tiers out there, there are photographs and some very informative mini film clips of some of the bugs in action. Check out the swimming actions of some of the mayflies, damselfly nymphs etc and you'll be paying more attention to the tails on your nymphs. We reckon just about every pattern could be improved with a pinch of rabbit fur or marabou at the tail. It's made us realise why small bead-head Woolly Buggers work as well as they do!

The Waterbug App is free to download from [www.thewaterbugapp.com](http://www.thewaterbugapp.com), the iTunes App Store and Google Play for Android.

*(Editor's note: Peter also suggested looking at <http://www.kossiedun.com.au/bugwatch.htm> . The advantage of the app is that you can examine it off-line, but the search capability is limited and there aren't any linkages to imitative flies)*

## Look out for tagged carp in the Bidgee watershed



31 tagged carp have been released into the upper Murrumbidgee River at Scottsdale (near Bredbo) and Murrells Crossing (downstream of Cooma). The tagged carp are marked with a long yellow tag



near their dorsal fin (see pic above). These carp are implanted with electronic tags so their movements can be tracked to tell us how carp move up and down the river system.

Recreational fishers are asked to please RELEASE tagged fish if caught and report details to Bush Heritage Australia (mob: 0407 700 431). A reward will be given for making a report. Please take photos if possible.

Carp movement is being studied as part of the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Carp Research project in partnership with Bush Heritage Australia, NSW DPI (Fisheries) and the NSW Recreational Fishing Trust. For more information about the UMDR Carp Research project go to: [www.upperbidgeereach.org.au](http://www.upperbidgeereach.org.au) or contact Antia Brademann, Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach Facilitator, on 0429 778 633.

## Climbing perch threaten Australian waterways



The ABC reports that a climbing perch (*Anabas testudineus*) that can survive several days out of the water and travel across dry land and choke birds and other fish could enter Australia from Papua New Guinea. It has already established itself on Queensland's Boigu and Saibai islands in the Torres Strait.

## What gets younger fishers into clubs?

21-year-old Jake Thomas from Ballarat posted an interesting item on the [FlyLife Forum](#) recently, in a discussion about ideas to get younger people to join fishing clubs.



## Trout fishers all smiles with brown spawning success



A six week high profile compliance operation targeting hundreds of trout fishers in the State's Snowy Mountains has found the majority of anglers are doing the right thing, Department of Primary Industries Supervising Fisheries Officer, Peter Tilbrook, said today.

### **Consultation period extended - Fisheries Management Amendment Bill**

The consultation period related to legislative amendments proposed through the Fisheries Management Amendment Bill 2014 has been extended to Friday 3 July 2015.

The *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (the Act) deals with the management of fishery resources in NSW. The Fisheries Management Amendment Bill (the Bill) aims to make a range of important changes to the Act that will bring benefits to all fishing sectors.

Papers are available on the Department of Primary Industries website [at this link](#).

Summary papers are available for

- Commercial fishing
- Recreational fishing
- Charter fishing
- Aboriginal fishing
- Environmental and other issues





## UMDR News

As discussed in RFA news, UMDR is major stakeholder in the carp movement project. Antia has promised to provide some newsletter material for future Burley Lines.



## NSW RecFish News

Full issue for July is [here](#). Most of the material is saltwater focussed but one very interesting 'political' item appeared:



### **\$13 million for fisheries on Budget day? No, not really.**

NSW DPI (which includes Fisheries) got no new money in the NSW State Budget announced on 23 June, but the Primary Industries Minister Niall Blair still saw the bright side, putting out a media release on the same day titled 'RECREATIONAL FISHING THROWN A \$13 MILLION LINE'. The average fisher, indeed any member of the public, would probably have thought that on Budget day, the government was announcing a wonderful avalanche of money for recreational fishing.

Unfortunately that wasn't the case.

In the media release (which, by the way, made no mention of the State Budget) the Minister announced that '\$13 million will be invested in 63 recreational fishing projects in NSW in the next year.'

He then went on to say that 'The funding has been provided through the Recreational Fishing Trust...'

Well, that isn't quite right. You see, the funding is not provided 'through' the Trusts, it's really provided 'by' the Trusts...and the money is not coming from a generous government, it is just \$13 million that fishers have tipped in by buying fishing licences each year.

## Fisheries Victoria News

Full issue for May is [here](#) and for June is [here](#). The May newsletter covers issues such as their successes in raising Estuary Perch in hatcheries, expansion of the Chinook Salmon stocking program into specified lakes and stocking of the endangered Macquarie Perch into the Ovens River. June issue is less newsy – new plastic licences are on their way and a free “weigh your Estuary Perch” ruler is available.



## Gaden Hatchery Monthly Report

May report has been received and is available on request. For those brave souls continuing to fish the lakes “260 1+, 95 2+ and 80 3-5+ surplus Atlantic Salmon were released into Lake Jindabyne at the completion of stripping” – this is in addition to 234 Brook trout. Interestingly the report noted that 16 brookies were intercepted heading up the Thredbo to spawn. 383 browns were trapped in the three weeks to 5 Jun. Don't forget that the hatchery offers an interesting tourist activity.



## Book Review and Library Sale

The committee has decided to reduce the club library to hold only fly tying books and up to date DVDs (which will be periodically sold as new titles are acquired). The library will be made available for sale to members at the next few meetings. A number were sold at the June meeting raising \$62.

To assist potential buyers some book reviews (or perhaps more fairly abstracts) are available on the web [here](#). Those books available for sale will be annotated as such on that page. Prices are available from the Secretary.

Further contributions of book reviews are always encouraged by email to the newsletter editors.

## Cooking Corner – Stefan’s Tumut Outing gluehwein

Members returning from Stefan’s annual outing to Tumut often spoke in hushed and reverent tones about Stefan’s gluehwein – a secret family recipe handed down over the generations. We have finally extracted this from Stefan with much appreciation. See our [Cooking Page](#). Further contributions are always encouraged.

## Equipment Review



Jason M has provided a review on an economy fly combo that he recently purchased in New Zealand in light of some “equipment damage” en route. This can be found in our [Gear Review](#) page on the web with previous contributions.

Have you recently got some new kit – are you prepared to share your observations with the rest of us? Reviews from members on any items they’ve been using are welcome please.



## For Sale

Old club outboard. Johnson 2 stroke 4Hp needs a new home. Runs well, just has some quirks for starting which makes it unsuitable for a shared motor. 2hr (2L) internal fuel tank. As is (even has half a tank of fuel). Last run 24 May 2015. Suitable for a car topper or small tinnie. Free to club member, or \$100 if you know someone who is after a cheap outboard. Can be brought in a box to club meetings for viewing/taking away.

Any fishing related items that members would like to advertise here, please email [newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto:newsletter@canberra-anglers.asn.au).

## Notable Fish Recorded

The intent of this segment is to encourage folk to get out fishing (reporting on recent catches) and to encourage entries for consideration for [club trophies](#). Fishing has been pretty tough and no 'notable' fish have been recorded recently. We will recommence recording catches here once we enter the 2015/2016 'trophy year'.

## Jun Meeting Outcomes

**Outstanding action items** from previous meetings:

- Geoff to clear Bill's draft briefing note for new members and ask Kelly to prepare a flyer/pamphlet for printing.
- Jason M to select photos from CAA newsletters for Bill to send the graphic files for Jason, or a volunteer, to have printed in preparation for display at the fly casting weekends on 6, 13 and 20 September 2015.

**Completed action items** from previous meeting:

Lyall has assembled all non-fly tying library books and priced with Bill's help for sale at June, July and August meetings.

**New action items** from this meeting:

Nathan W is to investigate a possible location near Nimmitabel for the final week of fly casting tuition for the public in September.

In addition, it was agreed that a draft outings program for 2015-2016 would be formulated by e-mail between Committee members and presented at the July meeting for discussion and endorsement. The Committee is progressing CAA response to CFA in respect to their request for comment on CFA involvement in the new Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council.