# THE BURLEY LINE



**Jaime From Last Year** 



## From the Editor's Desk

When drafting this I was going to start with "there's precious little fishing going on at the moment" but right before publication time Claude, BJ, Al and Shaun provided some opening weekend copy – many thanks guys. The other major contribution came from Stefan – he of the traveling A-Van – reporting on his returning to a childhood haunt in Queensland. As ever, Stefan's words are thoughtful and his photos enticing. In anticipation of a small issue, I prepared a segment taking a bit of a "Retrospective". Thanks JM for this suggestion. It was a lot of fun looking back through the archives. Jaime is gracing the front page – Eucumbene late season 2020 but I'll hold back the article itself till next issue.

Other items are a report on the flytying 22 Sep – welcoming back Evan via Zoom from Victoria, plus Claude helping me out with notes from the 8 Sep talk by Mickey "Finn" – some really useful hints on fishing the Tumut and other matters. Meanwhile there's been lots happening on social media and members have been actively hunting items for inclusion here – many thanks folks.

The current lockdown has put paid to our traditional casting for the public days – a real shame to have been impacted in that manner after so many years. I understand the Committee are closely watching the rules and intending that it be a postponement rather than a cancellation – fingers crossed folks. The uncertainties and the proposed future rules have also cause postponement of our annual Lyle Knowles trophy – see the Committee Notes inside here.

I ran across two lure spinfishers on Lake G and they reported a 50cm yellowbelly for their efforts ... I may need to break out my gear and get down there.

With my Membership Officer hat on – another reminder that fees are due – go to 'join us' to update your contact details via the webform or simply email me. Please note our new bank account numbers (these were changed last year), they are given in this newsletter. So far 28 members have signed up again (welcome home Greg W!) – means 19 from last year remain to renew, plus hopefully some new members – spread the word folks. Given the postponement of the casting days, new members may be thin on the ground for a while if we don't do some word of mouth.

## **Coming Events**

## Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> October.

After last month's "early in the month" meeting, this is late in the month. More details via email. Via Zoom from 7:30.

## Fly Tying: 27<sup>th</sup> October

We've decided Zoom works best even when we aren't locked down. From 7:30 – more instructions via email in due course.

#### **Next Events**

With the postponement of Lyle Knowles, we hang out in hope for 28<sup>th</sup> Nov Natives under the care of Alan S.

## **Some Committee News**

#### Claude

The CAA has been advised that our DPI grant has been 'partially' successful. We received the great news that we will receive approximately \$5800 to purchase new rods, reels, lines and leaders. We included Airflow beginner kits and a couple of the intermediate Primal rods. We didn't get the Primal gear, but it's still great news for the club. We are speaking to the Compleat Angler Canberra about the order and we really hope to get the new gear prior to the planned Casting for the Public early next year.

The committee has selected our PLI insurance provider that will be secured through our soon to be affiliate membership with the NSW Branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA). Joining ANSA will provide a number of benefits to the club and its members. We hope to get ANSA in to present to us in the near future. ANSA will also provide the CAA a significant discount on our insurance. We will not have member 'accident' insurance cover with the new provider – it's just too expensive.

Following consultation with COVID ACT and review of the associated restrictions, it has been decided to defer the Lyle Knowles event to early next year. (Bill will be very happy with this decision as those that know him understand that he doesn't believe that catching anything on a sunken fly is really fly fishing....and Feb next year will provide greater opportunities for dry fly fishing!©)

# **Inskip Point Bream**

Our gypsy has returned with a report on one element of his grand tour ... and a bonus recipe.

Each element now up on our Places and Cooking blog.

#### **Stefan**

Breakfast at the Tip of Paradise.

We are all eventually drawn back to fishing spots and methods of our youth. Kids love fishing for bream. Such early initial experiences are usually when simply handlining off a pier or sand bank in a river.

Small bream are often the teething catch that introduces young fishers to the wonders that lie under the glistening water's surface. The effect that a flapping, gulping creature hauled to the shore can be transformative. They will either recoil or be totally absorbed by the experience. Some will be interested enough to take home a suitably large catch and have their mother prepare the haul into a delectable meal.

The memory of that event will last a lifetime. It is so with me; I still particularly enjoy catching bream for the table. They are an exquisite fish, akin to the sometime more desirable snapper, to



which they are closely related as a species. So, with all that in mind, I would like to regale you with the tale of a recent fishing experience.

What with restrictions of late and difficulty of travel, I was fortunate enough to be camping at Inskip Point, right there to the southern tip of K'gari (the rainforest paradise later to be known as Fraser Island). The surrounding area is easily reached by car tourists and has become a winter destination for many frost-bitten southerners just like me. The available camping area is controlled by the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Services and a pass is required to stay. A ferry service shuttles visitors over to the island and its beach access road on a regular basis during daylight hours from the extreme end of Inskip Point, just north of Rainbow Beach. Many use this area as a jumping off point to access the wonders of K'gari but be warned, strictly only for those armed with genuine off-road vehicles. I did not venture there for obvious reasons; my car gets stuck in sand!

Now, with camp suitably established and having the afternoon free – I know that is *de rigeur* for camping but..., I grabbed a small rod, bucket, and some pipis that a new chum had given me the night before after I had suitably lubricated his generosity with Canadian Fireball, sitting by his welcoming large campfire and yarning into the evening. Off I went on a stroll toward the ferry terminal land-spit.

To explain, that in this instance those ferries do not berth as conventionally expected a la "Circular Quay" but spear into the shore and have vehicles load off the beach. The manoeuvre, of necessity, means that the water is regularly churned. I figured that sea critters would be attracted to this area in search of easy pickings.

I was hoping to catch a nice flathead looking for an easy meal in the wash. Initially setting up a line with a running sinker, later experimenting with the pater-noster (or dropper) setup, I cast to the depths. To my mind there exist two basic terminal options, weight on the end or bait on the end, depending on bottom situation, when getting hooks to the strike zone. I have been experimenting with the fisheries suggested use of circle hooks and bait presentation, attaching the hook via a 'Snell'. This option gives the hook a straighter pulling action, especially when tested against my thumb.....ouch! Accidentally so when tightening the loops.

Waiting for the boat to leave, and then casting into the wash area gave me about half an hour of access to the sand bar before the boat returned from the round trip. What I found very quickly were two things. Firstly, the tide was running extremely fast and moving my line along the shore sideways and, secondly, that most fish were small and bream. So, wrong time of the tidal cycle and wrong species present, but not all was lost. It got me thinking.

The relatively narrow channel that I was facing was in fact the in and out flow passage for the waters of Tin Can Bay and the Great Sandy Strait, some hundred or more kilometers long. Inskip and the tip of Fraser act as a funnel for all the water that moves between tidal changes into that massive water system. Surely the fish of the region had become habituated to the regularity of that flow over time immemorial. Was there a brief period, at low tide when the waters briefly stopped, and the load of nutrients settled? Would this be the prime time for fish like larger bream to dine at leisure? Their body shape means they expend energy just maintaining position in fast flowing waters, showing a predilection for actively feeding only when the waters are calm. My theory seemed sound. Consulting tide-times tables, made so

easy with the modern telemetry devices we all carry in our pockets, I concluded to test the theory early next morning, the next practicable low.

And so, it came to pass that the following day I was standing on the beach, two rods in hand, one with dropper, the other set on a running sinker. Now to wait for the tide to stop at the appointed hour. The time came and went, the water did not stop. My bait kept getting whipped sideways, seawards, and ending up uselessly sitting in the wash. I was disheartened. Why? Inexplicably, I had failed to factor in the inertia of such a gigantic tidal system, and quickly realised that the sweet spot was some time off, half or even an hour later, giving that momentary pause before the rising tide again developed enough power to reverse the flow.

Patiently I waited, occasionally casting a bait less line to plumb the waters, so to say. Then it happened, just as the sun made its achingly majestic struggle over the horizon, the waters stilled, the waves flattened, and my rods started getting frantic attention. Suitably presented with small baitfish or the remainder of my pipis, the rod tips started pulsing and jerking in that heart rate inducing situation that gets us fishers thrilled. One, two three, four – fish came to hand in short order after putting up reasonable struggles. There was no preference as to rigging, both methods being as effective under the conditions.



What a moment of pure joy - that sunrise, the foaming sparkle crested wavelets, the silver of the glistening fish, the pristine sand beach- all conflating and creating the perfect morning. A memory for the mind to dine on forever. In fact, the catch provided more than just mental satisfaction, my belly told me that a pair of fish would amply satisfy my breakfast needs. And I had just the recipe, "The tequila-sunrise open-fire seared Bream breakfast".

### The Recipe:

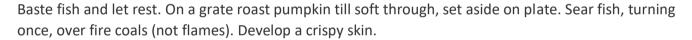
A suitably situated fire with hot coals.

Bream to hand - scaled and cleaned, with both sides cut lightly about a centimeter apart.

Baste (for fish) - made up of olive oil, Cajun seasoning, a splash of tequila and a squirt of tabasco sauce – suitably mixed.

A couple of thinnish slices of pumpkin (Jap or Q Blue) - coated in olive oil and lightly salted.

#### Method:



Enjoy while staring out to sea and sipping OJ or mango beer (it's never too early to have a beer ©



(Note: Don't discard the bones and head – add to a pot of water, some chopped leek or onion, celery and a carrot to make a stock for an evening risotto to go with cooked mud crab. You had your pots out overnight of course! Right?)

Paradise Found.



# Fly Tying - 22 Sep - Flash Belly Bunny



concerned that his was a bit scruffy, but Jayden's are very colourful.

We had a welcome guest from Bendigo present via Zoom. Evan led the session. Follow him here. Materials etc on the web. Posting this on our Facebook page evinced a comment from one of Lyall's fishing buddies, Jason Stratford, reminding us "Such a versatile pattern. Can be up / downsized for a wide variety of species! Get on it!"

I was sent three images – Claude was







## Mickey 'Finn'

Claude with some help from Bill

#### Some points we caught:

Streamer fishing is something that should become the next big thing in Australia – Use a 7-8 wt rod with sinking/intermediate line, with a 4 foot, 15-20lb Maxima, with leader and 4-6 inch streamers! You can even go for a triple articulated fly. You may only get 3 fish in a day, but they will most likely be nice browns. Mickey also likes the Best Fly Ever (BFE) in Tan/Olive or Black/White.

https://bigskyanglers.com/big-sky-anglersfeatured-fly-the-best-fly-ever-bfe/

Tumut flies – nymphs close to the bottom provide the most success – size 14-16, simple nymph, but highly recommended to have a hotspot. A favourite of Mickey's is the Fulling Mill Pink Tag.



### **BIG SKY ANGLERS FEATURED** FLY - THE BEST FLY EVER (BFE)



- Thread: 6/0 Uni, Black
- Tail: Black marabou with topping of black Lite-Brite or equivalent
- Body: Thread wrapped black

Favourite dries on/around the Tumut is the Deer Hair Shaving Brush (when not targeting hoppers). If you see fish appearing to take surface flies but you're not having success, consider adding an unweighted pheasant tail on a 2-4 ft dropper. It will probably be taken about 3 inches below the surface. These tricky 'seem to be rising' fish are probably taking emergers, light pheasant tail nymph but can afford to be a few feet from the indicator dry.

Other interesting information:

- Best hopper time is Feb/Mar at a medium-high water level. Use a foam hopper.
- If you are in a boat, don't be afraid to use 2X-3X tippet, you don't need to worry about your fly getting down quickly because you do long drifts
- Mickey spoke about even using 20lb Maxima when stripping the big wets with a 7 or 8 wt to deal with the snags and also the 'force of big browns hitting the wets head on'
- Favourite knot Penny Knot

- Starting tips for two handed casting
  - focus on delivering the fly rather than the line. Use a normal floating or intermediate line, uprated by two weights
  - don't get too hung up on tips etc.
  - Interesting hint for adopting two handed, try putting your dominant arm on the bottom – eg if you normally cast with right hand, put that hand on bottom pulling toward yourself.
  - the bottom hand does the work hold the top part of the rod with two fingers, pull the bottom hand towards you – plenty of YouTube advice
  - o stop high

Favourite three flies for the region:

- 1. Pink tag nymph
- 2. Foam hopper up to 3 cm
- 3. Size 16 thin PTN
- 4. Shaving Brush
- 5. Streamer

UV hotspot is important, but no special colour

# Two Reports from Opening Weekend on the Cotter

Claude, BJ, Al and Shaun

#### Claude

A small group of CAA mates decided to take on the challenge of 'speed' fly fishing that our competition fly fishing comrades are more used to! Our challenge was to be COVID compliant and get to and back from a fishing spot in four hours and a couple of hours on the water...and hopefully catch some fish. Al and Claude made two trips – Saturday and Monday mornings. BJ and Shaun hit the water on Monday morning.

The Saturday trip was the long awaited start of the season, but we were concerned with the previous week of rain and the potential rain during the day, especially since all of Canberra's dams were 100%. The roads were not too busy and we guessed the forecast of rain put a few fishers off. We tried to find Al's secret spot and we were sure we had it sussed. Keen as mustard, and against all the guidance you can find, we rigged up our rods at the car and then started trekking to the river...we had done it before. The terrain was not as we remembered and pretty dense, we put it down to a wet Winter and start to Spring. Al got to the river quickly. Claude unfortunately got tangled in the brush and ended up with a nymphing rod 10 cm shorter than when he started. By the time Claude made it to the river, Al had already landed a number of fish....what a cracking start. The river was surprisingly clear but the level was high - too high for us to contemplate any river crossings.



Al, using a classic indicator and dropper, kept on catching fish while Claude untangled the nest of line (with the rod tip). Once rigged up, Claude joined Al in the water and slowly worked up the river fully expecting to start catching quickly based on Al's form. It took a while but Claude eventually hooked up a few fish, but only got half of Al's haul for the day. We could only move up the river by hugging the side of the

river and using trees to pull ourselves upstream – every now and again we could walk perhaps 10m out of the river. Claude's rig was 5lb fluorocarbon with a 3mm tungsten bead pink squirmy wormy with a 3mm tungsten pink tag nymph mentioned by Micky Finn. About half were caught on each fly.







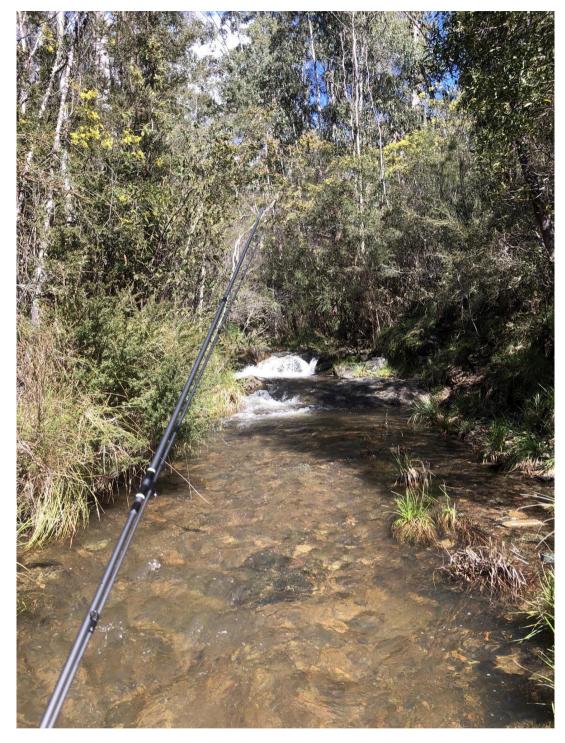


Sunday was a similar event for Claude and AI, but all the gear was packed in backpacks and/or rod rolls. Having rediscovered AI's secret spot (which was not where we were on Saturday) the walk to the river was much easier. The river was much better, having dropped around 6 inches. We had a great session and ended with a similar haul. We were able to maintain contact with BJ and Shaun over the radio and they were having similar success.

#### BJ - Is it the Season of the Worm?

With the ACT Govt helpfully loosening the lockdown outdoor recreation restrictions and reopening the ACT National Parks just in time for the Opening Weekend – you'd be forgiven for thinking Andrew Barr is a fly fisherman.

A sample of desperates (fisherman, 4wd-ers, and trailbike riders) were observed pressing the pedal down the Brindabella Road quickly balancing the driving vs fishing time value algorithm against the allowances. BJ & Shaun masked up for a co-drive on Labour Day, while the Pres. and Al did the same twice over the weekend. They weren't the only cars slotted next to the access points. Primed by heavy rainfall in the preceding week (and the whole of winter) the dams are choka-block full to dribbling - it was not ideal fly fishing conditions. Nonetheless fortune favours the brave Euronymph and Indicator nymph-ers with lead split-shot, wading sticks and tungsten studs. With very a limited time window, measures such wearing waders for the drive and pre-rigging were vital for cutting down the usual stream-side pondering and pfaffing - and decreasing some of the ritual meditations we normally take for granted in our sport.



Normally 4 inch deep fords were gushing above waist height - but no one ended up dumped in the Murrumbidgee. When we found access to the slacker water windows, feisty Rainbow's of plateable size (and better) came to hand (as long as enough weight was added to tick bottom within a quick drift). Cotter water was flowing clear and strong but there's no escaping that squirmy worms were the standout success factor for size. Mayfly hatches were also observed when the sun cut through to the water surface boding well for later in the season, if the La Niña cuts us a break.

Just imagine what could happen when NSW and heaven forbid Vic borders open! Tight loops all.



## **Spotted by Greg S**

Hume Dam is full ... hmm more water/same number of fish?

## Spotted by Guy – KNP Developments

Guy spotted <u>this article</u> in the SMH (fortunately, first articles read here are complimentary). He noted a brief reference to NSW Rod Fishers Society (a fellow Affiliate with CAA to NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers). NSWCFA and MAS have made submissions since the development of Kosciuszko National Park will influence our angling up in the mountains.

## Could it be That This Could Only Happen in NZ?

Cows being toilet trained.

## **How to Cook Carp?**

Greg S found this YouTube video. The chef seemed quite competent, but you'll need to fiddle with the YouTube settings to get the English translation sub-titles. I won't put it into our Recipes blog until Greg assures me that the results taste nice.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1k9AfVge0Y

## **Amazing Drone Footage of NZ Trout Fishing**

Gareth is a solo video blogger on YouTube. Because he is solo, the videos are mainly GoPro from the chest so quite different to the videos produced by Dave and Amelia Jensen that I've referred to at other times. One benefit of viewing Gareth's is that, at the time they are published, he is filming in New Zealand and the seasons are aligned to Australia's even if the number of fish is not ③ I've recently seen an excellent production from him where he uses his drone to show just how many fish were present in the stream, and also to show him catching fish. This is what Peter and I aspire to do. Check it out <a href="here">here</a>. He seems to me to be sort of a Kiwi version of JQ ... similar age, language and attitude to fishing. (Kiwi AI, the water looks like the TT?)

## Meanwhile, Stuart is Being Troubled by Reptiles

Stuart has had to fight to keep these out of his boat.



# 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.

Nothing this month that you won't read here.

# Stuff You May Have Already Read on our <u>Facebook Page</u>



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 placemarker.

#### **COVID** and Fishing

RFA of NSW has been clarifying the acceptance of fishing as exercise within COVID restrictions in NSW. The situation in the ACT is not so clearly defined.

#### **Trophy Trout on the Murray Below Hume Weir**

If only we could get there.

#### **Another DPI Activity Helping Us**

Monitoring environmental issues.

#### **Annotated Bibliography of Fly Fishing books**

Wikipedia amazingly has an annotated bibliography of Fly Fishing books, and where they are publicly available, links to online copies.

#### **DPI's Trial with Tiger Trout**

DPI is entering their second year of a three year trial of stocking tiger trout.

## 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>, a useful calendar of events and recent videos are 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.

Sep 2021 Newsletter was promoted on our News Blog. Key points:

- Murray cod and crayfish closed seasons
- Evidence of Macquarie perch in the Georges River
- US trout streams failing in heat ... (This discusses a river I fished in 2015, the North Platte)

### **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.

Sep 2021 Newsletter was promoted on our News Blog. Key points:

- RFA's submission to Legislative Council on floodplain harvesting copy now available
- Check your life jacket meets Australian standard
- National Fisheries Plan have your say

#### Fisheries Victoria News - 'Nibbles'

Nothing from them arrived this month. Remember you can subscribe yourself, here is the <u>link</u>. 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 ©).



# Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

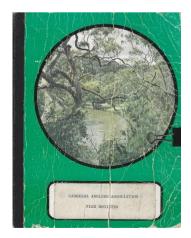
Provided for your calendar planning, members can see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest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

Dates	Event Details
Sun 10 Oct	Go Fishing Day NSW version. <a href="https://gonefishingday.com.au/">https://gonefishingday.com.au/</a>

Recent advice is	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Anaconda Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants.				
that this is now proposed	The word is that there'll be a special prize exclusively for fly anglers. Here are some pages related to the 2020 event				
for Dec	https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage/posts/2749280708483144				
	https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage/posts/2820574901353724				
17-18 Jan 2022.	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops had restarted after the major COVID restrictions passed in NSW, but of course we are now in another surge.				
Continue to monitor the website link.	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/				
Fri 29 Apr to Sun 1 May	NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers InterClub Meet – this is now on the CAA 2021-22 program so I'll delete this from this section after this newsletter.				
	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. Currently, 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. The process will change this year and we hope to receive clear guidance prior to our first event. In the meantime, please take photos of your catch with a tape or other verifiable measurement device (eg rod, but not your foot or hand).



We welcome emails advising how you are going, but don't forget to formally register them. 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 as being registered.

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/ Date
Peter K	Redfin		No advise (likely to be fly)	Point Hut/25 Sep
Peter K	Redfin	33cm	Fly	Point Hut/27 Sep
Claude, Al, BJ and Shaun	Rainbows and browns	unreported	Fly	Cotter River, 2 and 4 Oct

## Contact Us

Canberra Anglers Association Inc.

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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. Fees are payable each year after our AGM (adjustments will be made for joining later in the year). 2021/2022 rates are unchanged from last year:

- General Membership \$40.00
- Family Membership \$50.00
- Concession Membership (age pension or concession card) \$15.00

Junior Membership (U18 years) \$15.00

Payment can be made via 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.







