

THE BURLEY LINE



BJ and his new friend

See the full story later in this issue



From the Editor's Desk

BJ's joy shows the local trout fishing can rival other more famous locations – congratulations mate and thanks for the notes, even if the specific site remains super secret.

As always, Jason has stood up and helped with some interesting content, and thanks also to Randy (stuck down the coast and I'm aware a recent injury is preventing access to the water).

Claude continues to make space in his busy work schedule to run the Zoom fly tying – a pretty simple but effective variant of a well-known fly was November's topic. His flies certainly look the part. Thanks for some notes here Claude.

Also here, some important news from our associates in MAS and NSWCFCA – great work being done there.

Coming Events

Meeting: 9th December.

Christmas BBQ by the lake. More details were sent via email.

Fly Tying: 24th February 2022 ... to be confirmed

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

You'll be aware that the November Murrumbidgee trip had to be cancelled due to the high water risks. We can't win a trick recently.

10th- 12th Dec Saltwater if someone can step up to fill in for John and Stuart (committed to other inescapable appointments). Otherwise it will have to be cancelled.

16th Jan Carp Bash led by Claude.

President's Note

Claude

The CAA will be joining the [NSW branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association \(ANSA\)](#) as an Affiliate. The ANSA process sees clubs affiliating separately from individuals. CAA members might care to look at the website as individual membership has specific benefits eg being able to go into the record books plus obtaining free accident insurance (which will not be covered by CAA's Public Liability Insurance).

It was disappointing that the Murrumbidgee Native outing planned for 28 Nov 21 was cancelled because of the high river levels. The saltwater event will be cancelled unless we get a volunteer organiser (refer to Lyall's email)

The increased rainfall has provided huge benefits for fishing in our local region in the rivers and lakes. Get out there and have a crack, but take care in the rivers....I lasted 15 minutes in the

Cotter a couple of weeks ago before I had to make the hard call to my fishing buddy that the drive and walk in was not worth a potentially dangerous day of fishing.

Spotted by BJ

BJ was concerned for JQ's safety, but reading this story the guy was in his 60's and had his lure stuck in a tree – unlikely that this situation would ever occur to JQ!

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-11-09/fisherman-fights-off-attacking-crocodile-on-far-north-queensland/100606454>

Spotted by Jason M



[Mayflies of the Snowy Mountains and Monaro, Part 1](#) ... in AFN Fisher magazine on-line. As it happens, I ran into Paul Bourne at the Nov MAS meeting. He tells me that the article was written quite a few years ago and he never got around to doing Part 2 ☺

Fliprocks Sandal Review

Jason is always on the hunt for some new, innovative gear. His full review on Fliprocks with extra photos has been uploaded to our [Gear Blog](#).

Jason M – Flippin' not slippin'

Being a Queenslander and leaving my old worn out sandals near Bronte Lagoon in early 2020 (some may remember my gluing article), when I was offered the idea of getting some sandals for Christmas last year, I started a bit of a hunt. I was soon browsing through stores, trying to find the best balance of both arch support and grip on slimy boatramps. I wanted something good to walk in, easy to put on and off, and what I could drive in and launch the boat or kayak without having to swap footwear. Then, I remembered looking at ET's fishing shows liking the idea of the Fliprocks Sandals, and how they reminded me of the multi-sole Korkers wading boots. A quick check in November saw the sales had a discount for the Black Friday sales, which I think continued towards Christmas as well. I put my order in

for a pair, and a second tread pattern to give me both hiking and studs (and I figured studs on fibreglass doesn't go too well). Of note when it says 'felt pad', this was the backing part of the tread and the felt is quite dense, not the kind of softer felt found on wading boots.

The home of Fliprocks in Australia is in Sydney, and they arrived pretty quick with free shipping. I've never seen them in stores, but Hamish and the rest of the store were quite responsive in recommendations on sizing. I did notice though that whilst I thought I had ordered a size 12 sandal, that a 12/13 size arrived. To their credit, the team quickly sent me another pair. Looking at the original pair, it looks like someone accidentally put the half size larger sandals in the wrong box (both boxes are Size 12), and it was an honest mistake quickly corrected.

I took advantage of our Jindabyne outing to test them out. My challenge was to see if for the weekend I could get by with 2 pairs of shoes – the Fliprocks outside, and my thongs inside the lodge to save cleaning up the lake sand etc.



Wearing them in, with a couple of supplies stops on the way out of Canberra, I found they gripped well and the toe protector – being available in a range of sizes – fitted well and didn't catch much in my typical dragging the feet style, compared to when I have taken advantage of a larger sandal in a clearance bin. Driving they were quite good, getting me down to the lodge.

I found they were quite good on the sandy shores, and it was relatively easy to shed the sand in the shallows. I added the River Master studded (felt) pads, which gave great grip over the sandstone boulders below the lodge and out on the point, and helped me navigate the speargrass. I recall my ankle was able to stay at an obtuse angle, with my toes pointing down to the water as I stood on the lakeside of rocks, casting out, without slipping.

Early the next morning I made good use of the slightly damp sandals to go for an early morning fish. Although a little damp in the straps, they were fine and I enjoyed the pre breakfast stroll and wet wading.

Stephen and I decided to fish the Thredbo River, which I saw as a great opportunity to try the Fliprocks out. Hiking above the hatchery, the sandals were comfortable (even as someone who has flat feet), and a good grip. Once up into the fishing area, I found a good spot to wade across the rocks to an island and fish from the middle, being a lefthander, whilst Stephen worked on his casting from the bank.

It is worth noting here that I have found (and I think the website tips may even recommend) that it is useful at times to tighten the straps, much as I have with other sandals. In addition to straps getting wet, I find it good to brace your foot in the sandal and reduce movement (and chafing from dirt and sand) but when driving etc it is generally too tight and you need to ease the pressure. The adjustments on the Fliprocks was great – and numerous, but I found that only two need to be adjusted – the others you can use to tidy up the straps, a bit like evening the loops in your shoelaces. I have noted however that given the range of shoe sizes, and the common sized middle strap (a replaceable item), making the toes straps about 5-10mm shorter would still give enough range of adjustment, but save the small amount of bounce of the strap. To be honest though, I didn't really notice it underwater, only a little bit whilst walking on dry land (a bit like the plastic ends on pull-tight cycling shoes for people who use them). I rarely caught fly line in them on land.



Worst case of the tag, but I was able to reduce it a bit with other straps

Anyway, back to the fishing.....



Confidence checking across slickrock, granite rock, some slime, and in fast water, including rock hopping



Well, I found the grip reassuring, and I was able to wet wade confidently, and even did a couple of leaps across boulders. They cut through the slime really well, and the only movement I had was when one rock rolled a bit, but the sandals held firm and I got across. Back at the car, I changed out the tread back to the regular tread.

With Stephen still untangling his leader and the day getting longer, we considered going up towards Thredbo. I was able to wear the sandals in for a distillery purchase, and after deciding half an hour's

fishing wasn't worth a day pass at that point, we headed back to High Country Outfitter for some final flies and then driving back to Canberra.

Back home, I took the sandals off, I think for the first time since heading out from the lodge mid morning. They went quite well, and met my desire for a single sandal I didn't need to keep swapping out. I did note that the main sandal tread & outer rubber might be a little softer than other similarly priced sandal brands. The rocking of my heel on the clutch or accelerator, and my general tendency to drag my heels a little, identified some wear on the back of these after that solid weekend of wearing them. As such, I wouldn't recommend them for regular, all-day all-year wear as you would probably wear out part of the tread in less than a year. I have noticed some of the studs aren't as perpendicular



However, if saving them for fishing trips, or heading out for hikes and camps, they could easily serve as a single footwear that you can adapt and whether it be hiking, wading, or a late night dash to a tree, they can easily serve the purpose (and don't need pausing for a few minutes on cold nights to get your feet and laces sorted). I note they do also make a sandal with an optional heel strap, which I haven't tried, but you can squash down the heel strap on these sandals if you want a short trip from your tent or the fire circle.

I didn't have these in time for my saltwater trip to Tuross, but I would probably have used the plastic hiking (non-studded) pads, which should give enough grip walking on the trailer and boatramp. I did however use them on the lakes with my Hobie kayak, and found them to be quite good. In fact, you can

also pedal the kayak in them, provided you make the foot straps large enough. I think I noticed ET takes his off, but I found even with the studs on, the Mirage Drive worked fine. As such, not only do you not need worry about losing your footwear, but if you need to land quickly to get your big fish ashore, or try to time the rolling waves, you can confidently leap off the kayak and have good grip to navigate the shallow obstacles that would injure your bare feet. I ended up driving home in these sandals that time as well – I have also found them great at shedding water, so you don't get much onto your mud mats in the car. I also wore them from the camp, setting up and kayaking on Tantangara, one an 11 degree day, before walking the shore casting and landing my nice brown trout.



I'm sure I will get even more use out of them this summer, and especially next year on my trip north. The ability to put regular tread on will suit things like my inflatable boat, whilst I can quickly switch to the four studded pads for shore wading. I have even been using a 50/50 combination, allowing me to be like a mountain bike shoe which have soccer boot studs on the toe and flat heels – or setup the sandals the other way around.

With my flat feet, they provided good support, and the softer inner rubber creates a comfortable yet confident support. Yes, I ended up buying some other similarly priced sandals for more casual wear (slipped into the Christmas present), but these will be my go-to sandals outside of Canberra's winter to get near the rivers or heading to the coast. If you like wet wading, or rock or boat fishing, I can recommend a pair, and you might even find them on sale. You will need to order an additional tread, as they only come with a blank and regular plastic tread inserts.

(PS – going snowshoeing in late October, having contemplated adding them to try on the ice, I found myself wanting them to cross the aptly named Snowy River, and went barefoot instead. Next time will be wading socks and Fliprocks to help carry my fellow hiker across the river and ferry the gear)

More Folk Heading North

Randy is one of our membership who has headed to the South Coast. He provided some photos for our entertainment.



The GT is 40 lb, on a 12 lb tippet, 9w intermediate line, and biggish pink thing. Gulf of Carpentaria west of Weipa. 1.5 hr fight. First day, was scared I'd break it off, or break my Loomis.



Barra is one of 3 caught on 5 casts to a snag. Gussed at 15 lb. Another pink thing. And it was a lei day.



Cath with tuna she picked off a bait ball.

The Tinderry Horse Resuscitation

BJ

With all the regional rainfall, and remembering how very dry it all was before the fire season, Claude and I decided to revisit the region to see how the streams were recovered and whether the fine stocking works of the dedicated DPI>QAC were yet taking distributed stations and getting fat on the sushi train of food now flowing (at least the worms!)



What we arrived at was very full, coloured and fast, tight meandering runs that were difficult to get a natural drift on. That was our excuse. No rise and no fish seen most of the morning, after trying dry dropper configs, natural nymphs and squirmy wormy.

We finally found a long pool and cast buggers from the tail-out to the response of a couple of follows from a rainbow - then nada. So we chatted to our friendly farmer, provided ritual offerings for access (6pack of Capital Trail Pale), patted the new cattle dog (sometimes fond of chasing a fly line) and had some lunch. We pondered how dead the horse was and resolved to give it another hour of flogging from the next road crossing point.

Thankfully the field grass was not at the neck high levels of a previous visit, so casting from stream-side was viable, snake spotting more possible - but fishing no more fruitful. Time to get the paddles out for one last shot on the horse. I started at the tail of another large pool, and switched to buggers for a sweep of angles. Coordinating radio calls were made - "last cast". I was now nearing the head of the pool so tried to hit the upside of the seam from the inside of the bend. Luck produced a deep corner rather than a shoal of sediment and I soon had good weight. When the flank came up from the gloom I deadset swore and called it a carp before correcting myself. 3-4 head down circles told me I was again lucky to have cut back to heavier tippet and that I needed to run upstream to find shallow water lest I end up in that deep bend.

Thankfully Claude had noticed my animation by then and came by for the photography (*Ed: see photo of the month*). Just over 5lbs on the McLean weigh net and at least 66cm on the handspan estimator. Home time. Thanks QAC. Thanks Tinderry.

Jindabyne Trip

Bill

I am conscious that 11-14 Feb 2022 seems a while away, but it'll come faster than you think with the Christmas/New Year season in between. Members will recall the CSIRO Lodge has four twin rooms upstairs and three twin rooms downstairs – kitchens and lounges on both levels. I've tentatively booked the entire lodge. I'd ask that people register interest now and then I'll be looking for firm commitment and money towards the end of January. The cost will be \$64 per person for the two night weekend – by comparison an unpowered camp site in the town caravan park would be \$52 for the two nights.

In case people are wondering, we moved this event from December to make space for the coast trip (warmer down the coast then) and also in the hope that mid summer might see more dry fly possibilities. We'll see how this pans out.

Anyway, please contact me if you are interested. The event has been very popular in the past.

Fly Tying 24 Nov

Claude provided instruction on [an innovative variation on the classic Royal Wulff](#). Three variants from Claude included here:





***Huge Fly Fisherman* Videos on Dogs and Drones**

Folks may know that I follow Ben on his *Huge Fly Fisherman* YouTube channel. [Here](#) he has a very sad incident with a drone (same model as Peter and me it seems). Just shows that drones and water don't mix. But it [seems dogs do](#). If you look closely at the YouTube comments, there is a reference to this [latest Orvis development](#) in respect to making your dog more comfortable when fishing with you. I think the article's date might be significant. Funniest stuff I've seen in ages. I wonder why Simms aren't doing them too :)

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. These notifications can be very informative, for instance the recent invitation to head up to Eucumbene to see some brook trout being translocated, also the notification about a series of webinars on native fish initiatives on the 'Bidgee.

[NSWCFA December 2021 Issue](#)

Has arrived here. Key points:

- Progress on Gaden (Snowy Hydro 2.0) trout grow-out facility
- Feral horse plan leaves 3,000 horses to destroy Kosciuszko National Park
- Recent meetings of the NSWCFA

Trout Waters Annual Report Card

- A significant element of the Trout Strategy was to publish report cards on trout waters in NSW. The report cards have recently been uploaded onto the DPI website.

MAS News

I attended the Nov MAS quarterly meeting. Some notes below, plus an email that Steve Samuels (President) sent out in relation to progress on the Snowy Hydro 2.0 trout grow out facility:



- The MAS submission on the draft Wild Horse Management Plan has been sent. It will appear on the [MAS website](#) soon.
- The NSW Government has forecast a bill related to cruelty to animals which includes fishing. It will have implications on Fisheries Act including impact on catch and release. Steve suggests RFA take the lead in responding. [NSW govt petition](#) is getting huge support, NSW residents might consider signing
- Mitch Elkins (in charge of Gaden Hatchery) advised MAS that the current production is progressing very successfully. Sufficient browns were trapped and stripped to meet production requirements. About 290 odd rainbows passed through the hatchery trap but they were not stripped and allowed to move up the Thredbo to spawn naturally. More may have passed over the trap during floods. (Rainbow stock were held over at the hatchery from last year as brood stock for this year.)
- The 10,000 yearlings which were stocked into Lake Eucumbene earlier this year are doing well reaching about 30cm. Similar reports are coming from Jindabyne. Bodes well for MAS' concept of stocking larger fish in the future.

Message from Steve:

On Tuesday last week I met with representatives from Snowy Hydro and NSW Fisheries to discuss the planning for the Gaden Trout Grow-out facility. As you may remember the Monaro Acclimatisation Society (MAS) played a leading role in securing \$5 million as part of the Snowy 2.0 scheme to build this facility to ensure the Snowy trout fishery is given the best chance of remaining viable if redfin perch are introduced into our main lakes of Tantangara, Eucumbene, Jindabyne through the pumping of water from Talbingo dam.

The meeting on Tuesday confirmed the MAS recommendations of:

- 1. The grow-out facility being sited at Gaden hatchery,*
- 2. The facility will consist of a shed and tanks system*
- 3. Thredbo river water will be supplemented with water from Lake Jindabyne via a pump and pipeline.*
- 4. The facility will be capable of growing out up to 150,00 - 200,000 trout each season to a size that best protects them from redfin predation (170 to 200mm)*

Now that this has been agreed, Snowy Hydro will begin developing the plan in sufficient detail to submit to all parties for agreement and then forward to the NSW Planning Department and NSW DPI for approval. I am hopeful that this process will proceed without delays and I look forward to sharing the plan with you in more detail when that opportunity becomes available.

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.

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 major activity within a CFA team is related to [DPI's Angler Access website](#). This website has been problematic – simultaneously offering too much information (specifically the number of access points) and not enough (little detail, unvalidated information). CFA have negotiated with new management in the DPI to create a formal 'get-well' program. A small team of CFA members are working with DPI to improve the information available, clarify the fundamental purpose of the website (is it recording places to fish, or how do you get there) and finally how to establish a sustainable process to keep the website up to date. Our first task is to edit many of the 'amber' sites to get them to green status, at the same time try to rationalise the number of sites that relate to a single waterway.

November issue was notified on our [News Blog](#). Key items:

- Pink Up Windamere is a fishing comp to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation, on 1st & 2nd April 2022. It will be based at Cudgegong Waters Park, Windamere Dam.

- NSWCFCA submission on KNP Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan
- DPI are conducting 2021-2022 Survey of Recreational Fishing
- Article on ethics of catch-and-release versus killing fish
- Native fish breeding kicks off at Narrandera Fisheries Centre
- Season closure and other offences in the Snowy Mountains
- Recent meetings of the NSWCFCA

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](#).

November issue was notified on our [News Blog](#). Key item was related to a NSW Government proposal in respect to Animal Welfare Reform. The NSW Parliament is considering a wide ranging bill with implications for recreational fishing. NSW residents can review the proposal and consider signing a petition seeking it be stopped.

Fisheries Victoria News – ‘Nibbles’

One arrived mid Nov but, for a change, there was little that piqued my interest. This edition seemed to be focussing on saltwater, but it still gives you a clear impression of an energetic organisation. 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).

Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

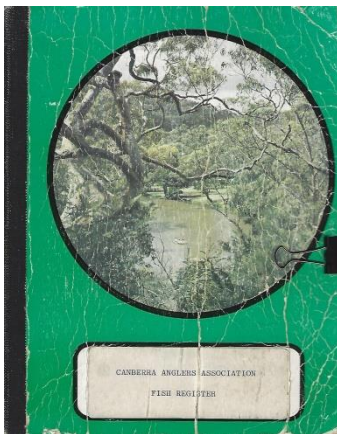
Provided for your calendar planning, members can see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest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

Dates	Event Details
3-5 Dec	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Anaconda Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants. https://visitcooma.com.au/events/2021-anaconda-trout-challenge/ Apologies folks, entries are now closed. This event has been sitting in this calendar and I have failed to keep my ear to the ground for the full details. I'll try harder next year to give timely warning ... I'm blaming it on COVID brain!
17 and 18 Jan 2022. Continue to monitor the website link.	NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne as part of their wider program. 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/
Oct	We can anticipate Go Fishing Day NSW version. https://gonefishingday.com.au/

Notable Fish Recorded

The intent of this segment is to encourage folk to get out fishing and share the joy. It is not the 'official record of catches' and so can include catches of interest that aren't eligible for trophies. Currently, 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. 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	33cm	No advice (likely to be fly)	Vicinity of Point Hut, 25 Sep

Peter K	Redfin	33cm	Fly	Vicinity of Point Hut, 27 Sep
Claude, Al, BJ and Shaun	Rainbows and browns	unreported	Fly	Cotter River, 2 and 4 Oct
Luke and Nathan	Rainbows	unreported	Fly	"local river" on opening weekend
Peter	Rainbows	Best at 42cm three others between 20.5 cm and 24cm	Fly	Cotter, 8 Oct
Peter K	Redfin	36cm	Fly	Vicinity of Point Hut, 17 Oct
Bill	Rainbows	Best at 33cm	Fly	Cotter, 28 Oct
BJ	Brown	Est 66cm	Fly	Tinderry's, 31 Oct?

Contact Us

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

Burley Line contributions to:
burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.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. 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.



Capital Fly Casting

www.capitalflycasting.com