

# THE BURLEY LINE



## Al Mc on the Tooma

See the full story later in this issue



## From the Editor's Desk

Well I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year celebrations – seems some people even managed to get out fishing. Well done to Al, big walk turned out to be quite successful as folk will read here. I've heard whispers about others using midge pupas but can't confirm. The rivers seemed to be blown out to a significant extent, so it is fortunate that I get some good reports about the Snowy Lakes.

The Carp Day was to be a relaxed affair, but it seems the condition of rivers has deterred anglers – maybe some folk went into the spirit of the affair chasing the fish on local lakes – meantime, recall that our carp trophy is not linked to a specific event. Report in your catches to the Secretary (and for info *Burley Line* Editor) for inclusion in consideration.

Reminder about the need to register interest in the Jindabyne trip – has always been a most enjoyable trip and hopefully the change in date will get us onto some good dry fly opportunities. Jason M was good enough to head down to East Jindy and provided a brief recce report on the accommodation.

Speaking about Jasons – JQ reported in about the latest arrival in his family.

I've included a very interesting article, previously published elsewhere, analysing rainfall and temperatures in the Kydra/Kybeyan – many thanks to Freddy von Reibnitz for this work.

Also here are some other interesting snippets and, as usual, pointers to items that have been posted on-line in our News blog and Facebook page.

### Coming Events

#### Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> February.

First meeting of year, we'll see if Raiders are accepting meetings.

#### Fly Tying: 24<sup>th</sup> 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


Snowies based out of Jindabyne 11-14 Feb – numbers are being sought ASP.

## Marchfly Madness on the Tooma!

(see this month's cover photo. This article has also been stored on our ["Places" blog](#). Al also produced [a video](#).)

### Al Mc

I had been planning this trip into the Tooma River in the Snowies since picking up on some hints at the CAA's club night at the Compleat Angler in '21, and I decided to head in early January '22



and hopefully biv' on the river bed for two nights. It had rained heavily in mid December and I had received reports of an unfordable torrent which boded well for my own trip some 10 days later. I was expecting a healthy flow and hungry trout.

My map suggested Snakey Plains Trail was relatively gentle, unlike the last 100km of the drive to get there. The absence of water in the hydro-scheme I put down to the major upgrade underway and remained hopeful of the conditions at my destination. There were a few cars parked on the road side and I did subtly inspect them for empty rod tubes and forgotten nets to see if I would face any competition. So far so good.

The walk did start flat, but it was stinking hot at 11am and the marchflies were out in force. This scourge is something not experienced in New Zealand and it was a shock to me that not even keeping moving was enough to stop them nailing me through my polypro leggings, worn I thought, for sun protection. To add to the aerial menace, there was actually quite a steep and persistent section to the track up to 1550m of elevation, and I was really starting to wonder if I had correctly interpreted the nature of the walk.

The hike did improve and I found a number of healthy creeks to stay hydrated on the walk in to Wheeler's Hut, which I was keen to investigate as a piece of Australian backcountry history. It is a photogenic spot at which I found four other hikers (on the way out I returned and was advised 12 people stayed there the second night I was on the river!)



After a coffee at Wheeler's I finished my walk into the river, bivvying at the small grassy camping area near the ford. When I first sighted the river from the top of the hills I had assessed it as 'smaller than expected' but realised as I started my afternoon of fishing by heading downstream, that fording it could prove a challenge. I was able to make it down maybe 1.5km before I felt that further exploration, whilst achievable, would be slow, and began fishing back up to camp.

Over the next few hours I landed 10 small rainbows and lost a number of others. I did dabble with some indicator nymphing expecting the better fish to be deep, but due to success with the dry and occasionally the dropper, decided to stick with what was working, and fun. The trout were found in all the expected places, however that evening I did ruminate on the lack of browns, which had been surprising. A big highlight of this day's fishing was the platypus that 'rose' a few metres from me inspecting my stimulator before proceeding upstream.

I made it back to my camp after the sun had dropped below the surrounding hills, but with plenty of light remaining for dinner. Some niggling rain did force me into my bivvy early, but nothing to trouble the camping experience.

The next day was my only full day in the river and I had planned for it to be a big one. I commenced fishing just upstream from the ford, and was able to easily navigate the river over the day. In contrast to the day before, I specifically targeted good brown trout locations and was rewarded, landing five of them in addition to another handful or more rainbows. I was constantly

on the lookout for snakes, and any other wildlife of interest, slathering on a lot of sunscreen throughout the day. Unfortunately, I discovered that I was not dressed appropriately for the marchflies, now in plague proportions, and regularly found myself thigh deep in river to get respite. Some trout downstream of me did very well out of it as many a marchfly fell to my frantic leg slapping and ended up drifting in the film.

Once again, I lost a couple of possibly more respectable fish, and whilst a biggie eluded me, I was still having a great time. I realised in the early afternoon that I was probably committed to staying in the river up to the next ford, and then walking the track back to my camp. Needless to say, as the day waned, I started getting nervous about the lack of ford, however I saw some cyclists pushing their bikes up a hill in the distance and figured I was on track. For those spending time in these hills, this is a great option to avoid bashing back down the river, and I think I covered the 6km back to camp in about 45 mins.

It rained through most of my second night, relegating me to the biv' early, which was no bad thing as at this point I was a bit broken! In body, but not spirit of course.

It was a late start for me the next morning, and it looked like it may be slightly overcast which was a relief, albeit it made the conditions glarey and very hard to see my dry fly. It didn't stop the marchflies however, and as soon as I found the river, they found me. I only fished a few pools downstream, but having tuned my techniques, I was able to land my best brown for the trip, and also lose another rainbow that probably would have been my biggest if landed.

The walk back to the road is noticeably easier than the hike in. At this stage, the wildflowers were in full bloom and being able to walk through a sea of white, orange, yellow and purple flowers, with myriad butterflies in attendance was special. All in all, a great trip, marred only by my being inappropriately attired to keep the marchflies away. I will return!

## Jaime's Secret Stance

### Bill

I'm constantly amazed by how successful Jaime is with his squirmy wormy. Over the Christmas break he revealed [his secret stance](#) that provides for that success. Not sure if he was just pulling my leg.

## Jindabyne Trip

### Bill

Just a reminder, registrations are requested by 25 Jan, I'll be calling for money immediately numbers are finalised. 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.

Members will recall the CSIRO Lodge (*Cicero*) has four twin rooms upstairs and three twin rooms downstairs – kitchens and lounges on both levels. Jason did a quick recce and reports on his associated fishing trip below.

## Cicero Scoping

JM

With the Jindabyne outing approaching and Bill's booking at Cicero Lodge, I did a short notice trip on New Year's Eve to the Lodge to meet some relatives (one who came to fly tying 5 years or so ago) on their way to Canberra.



*The usual leftover staples and spices, if required to add to your dinner*

I can confirm the coffee machine still works (ground coffee required), the main fridge is off on arrival, and the pantry is stocked with extras as usual (plenty of drinking chocolate). There was still a good supply of aluminium foil and wrap. The people downstairs made good use of the Weber Q. The indoor lounges appear to have been renewed, and it appeared much more open. There was plenty of hot water, but had to put the mixer to the right on the upstairs bathroom to have a warm shower as the mixer is opposite to normal. The pillows appear new, and much fuller.

I didn't get any further than East Jindabyne, and can say the band on at Siesta Villa put on some good music while we enjoyed the water in the bay. There were a few ski boats around (and SUPs and kayaks), which reduced later in the afternoon, but made the nearby dirt ramp very busy and another crowd further around at the park near the treated water outlet. As such, we went back to the lodge and accessed the water from there and the opposite side. The gates that used to be open next to Siesta Villa are now locked closed, and the lake level also meant the lake's edge track on the lodge side is underwater in many parts. It was obvious a number of people have been renewing some tracks from their properties to the edge track portions as a result. The dirt ramp on the opposite side of the bay already had a couple of groups of skiers set up for the afternoon, but we went to the end of the road and launched the Hobie there beyond the closed road sign.



The visitors trolled a Tassie Devil around, but were mostly trying out the kayak. I took the opportunity to use my Lite Water Dinghy, and upon thinking of using my anchor line as a foot-mounted backrest and using my tacklebox to take pressure off of my feet, it worked well. We had a pleasant paddle around, and I had a bit of a troll from the inflatable, but it was very quiet with a 31 degree day, occasional wind, and clear skies.





*Recovering the Hobie near Siesta Villa/Cicero Lodge on the former lake track*

As the sun dropped though the barometer and cooler air did their work, and some small fish became active. I missed one take, but otherwise it was mostly splashing between the small school. A quick cast before leaving in the morning was uneventful (in part from losing my lure), apart from watching a ski boater having some difficulty managing his heavy ski boat, trailer, and the mud ramp – he took the boat off and got out before I had a chance to drive around to winch him up.





*Enjoying the serenity of the sunset (and the local band at Siesta Villa pumping out Angels and Chisel covers)*

We then headed off to Adaminaby and Bobeyan Road. By the way, the Adaminaby Bakery is now a Nimmitabel Bakery store, so no more fish n chips or tasty cream buns on the way through. Peter K is probably already aware Kuma Pies have changed their sign, but are still available on the way through Cooma for his usual favourite.

A reminder that the driveway to Cicero is marked by the wooden sign, but a nice new fluoro yellow pedestrian sign is on the left just before it, on the crest after Siesta Villa, for those heading down to the outing.



*An overnight visitor to the driveway at the Lodge*

# Spotted by JM

JM

Perhaps we need a new trophy before members start catching these



['Scaring it to death': Study finds robot fish are removing invasive species in Australian waters](#)

Researchers at the University of Western Australia built a robot fish in 2018 that they used to scare away one of the world's most invasive species, the mosquitofish.

## The Effects of Rainfall and Temperature on a Monaro Stream

Freddy von Reibnitz originally published this paper in the Journal of the NSW Rod Fishers' Society – a very prestigious and exclusive fishing club. The article was subsequently published in the Newsletter of the ACT Fly Fishers where I was able to read and appreciate the significant analytical work therein. It appears here for Canberra Anglers Association through Freddy's generosity. I hope that others will benefit from the knowledge that has been extracted and presented here.

What follows is my attempt (with Freddy's approval as I shamelessly steal his words) at summarising the key findings and giving a taste of the full paper. Freddy's paper is available

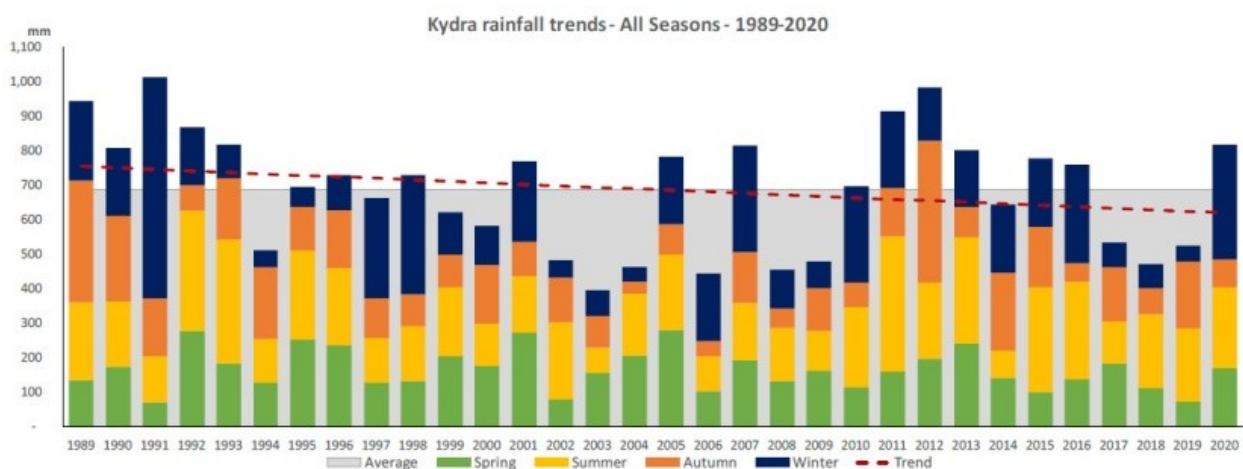
here and is included in what we call the [‘Beginners’ collection](#), but in truth a collection of much information useful to all levels.

The paper has a sub-title of “Boiling the Frog Slowly?” which gives a hint to the conclusions reached, but I’m jumping ahead.

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## The Rainfall Story

Many of us will know Rod Whiteway, long term Secretary of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society, but specifically the mainstay of the Kydra-Kybeyan sub-branch. Rod has been collecting monthly rainfall on the Kydra for well over 30 years. Freddy has had access to this data and has put it through comprehensive and objective data analysis.



The graph of yearly rainfall by seasonal contribution highlights the gradual recovery from the devastating drought starting in 2002 that so damaged the Monaro fishery. It also shows the recent prolonged drought beginning in 2017 and ending with the heavy winter rainfall of 2020. Also visible is the long term trend line dropping below the average.

Freddy’s paper then examines each season to identify what conclusions might be drawn.

Spring rainfall on average has accounted for just under a quarter of total rainfall. Over time, spring totals show a statistically significant downward trend, falling below the average since about 2005. (A statistically significant result is unlikely to have arisen by chance.)

The data shows that Summer rainfall on average has accounted for a little under 30% of total rainfall, the highest seasonal share. While the trend has stayed close to the average, there has been a marked increase in the variability of rainfall in the past decade. Freddy notes that unfortunately, the rain comes all too frequently in the form of shortish heavy downfalls in the midst of drought conditions, rather than steady soaking falls. As well as the obvious problems of siltation from the heavy falls, the paper raises a point I’d not thought of – that runoff can get heated by the river-side rocks before entering the stream. MAS is currently involved with DPI conducting water temperature logging examining such issues and identifying trout refuge locations.

Autumn rainfall on average has accounted for around 20% of total rainfall, the smallest seasonal share. Again, the trend has stayed close to the average but with a notable increase in variability over the past decade, with particularly heavy seasonal rainfalls in 2012 and 2021. There are many years when the rainfall was well below the autumn average, compromising brown trout spawning activity during the autumn because of low river levels.

Winter rainfall on average has accounted for just over a quarter of total rainfall on the Kydra. The trend is negative but not statistically significant.

For all seasons, including for spring, the trend needs to be interpreted cautiously, given the extreme volatility of seasonal rainfall. Of greater importance is the increasing volatility of rainfall patterns, particularly in summer and autumn, in the second half of the period.

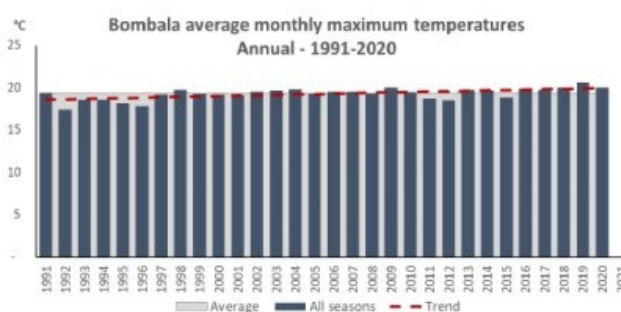
## The Temperature Story

Air temperature data for the Kydra was not available, so Freddy sourced data for nearby Bombala. I'm including here only the graph for the summer observations – the main paper shows all seasons.

### *Annual (December-November)*



Minimum annual trend is statistically significant.



Maximum annual trend is statistically significant.

In summary, over the past three decades there have been statistically significant increases in mean minimum temperature for the annual series, and for spring, summer and autumn, with trend lines rising by about one degree. There have been statistically significant increases in mean maximum temperature for the annual series (by one and a half degrees) and, most notably, for spring (by two and a half degrees).

## What does all this mean?

The Kydra does not represent the whole Monaro river system. However, the coastal weather patterns influencing the Kydra, Kybeyan and upper MacLaughlin, including the cooling easterly mists in summer that are a feature particularly of the Kydra and Kybeyan, provide them with an advantage over parts of the Monaro that lie in a rain shadow. The health of these rivers is “the canary in the coal mine” for the entire Monaro fishery.

The rainfall and temperature data all give support to climate change predictions for South-Eastern Australia of increased air temperatures and decreased but more volatile rainfall.

*Editor: The analysis provides a mathematical and robust consideration of long term rainfall and air temperature data. The findings are quite sobering to say the least.*

*The impact on the trout fishery is a major element of DPI and MAS research. It is also instructive to consider some of the research into mitigation that the Victorian fisheries authorities are undertaking.*

## **Our Newest Member?**

JQ advised that Elsie Frances arrived on 12 Jan. For those into statistics, 46cm long and 2.86kg. I'm sure Eli is over the moon to have a little sister. No doubts it won't be long before we see the two of them competing of best fish of the day. Congratulations to both Jason and especially Darlene for bringing this joy into the world.





## No Use for This Fly



Mike won't reveal where he went, but admits he caught some trout, but assured me that there is absolutely no value in using this fly .... Who is he kidding!

## 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.

### [Access to River Banks](#)

A very clear discussion on this tricky legal subject – complete with pictures to give examples.

## 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.

[Larger, tagged, trout being released](#)

[Death of boatie on Lake Eucumbene](#)

[Leather Barrel Creek blocked on the Alpine Way](#)

## 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.

January 2022 issue was notified on our [News Blog](#). Key items:

- Thousands of trout tagged and released in Burrinjuck and Blowering dams
- Khancoban trout stocking. Noting that similar stocking has been done in our region by Queanbeyan Anglers Club and Goodradigbee Acclimatisation Society
- Floodplain harvesting policy becomes law
- Animal welfare policy in New South Wales Inquiry

### 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](#).

January 2022 issue was notified on our [News Blog](#). Key items were:

- NSW has a new Fisheries Minister, Dugald Saunders.

- New artificial reef for Moruya Heads
- Fish screens for irrigation water extraction on the Macquarie-Wambuul river
- Public comments are being sought on the review of NSW Marine Parks.

### Fisheries Victoria News – ‘Nibbles’

The latest one is [on the web](#). Interesting points are:

- Golden tag competition extended to 31 Dec 2022.
- Victoria is on track to stock 10 million fish by April.
- The item on “Strategy to boost Victorian fishing tourism” has a magic image of fly fishing in the high country.

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).

### Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach

Antia provided [this interesting Facebook video](#) covering a recent workshop (on better construction of farm roads to prevent impact on fishing)

## 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*.

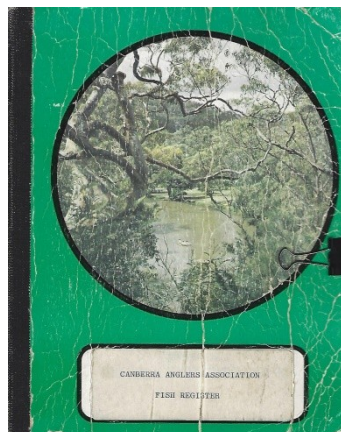
Dates	Event Details
Oct	We can anticipate Go Fishing Day NSW version. <a href="https://gonefishingday.com.au/">https://gonefishingday.com.au/</a>
Dec	Buckenderra Caravan Park organize a trout catch and release event called the Anaconda Trout Challenge. There is a limit of 150 participants. Here is info about the 2021 event <a href="https://visitcooma.com.au/events/2021-anaconda-trout-challenge/">https://visitcooma.com.au/events/2021-anaconda-trout-challenge/</a>
Jan 2023?	NSW DPI Kids’ Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne as part of their wider program but there are also saltwater events across the state <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>

## 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](http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au)

*Burley Line* contributions to:  
[burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto: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](http://www.capitalflycasting.com)