

THE BURLEY LINE



BJ on the Moonbah/Mowamba

See the full story later in this issue



From the Editor's Desk

So, the club has recommenced meetings with a great ZOOM talk by Neil Nelson from Illawarra FlyFishers on his adventures in New Zealand's Hawke's Bay area - hitting some spectacular rivers. Fly tying has recommenced with two new instructors coming forward with Claude and Lyall being unavailable - well done guys. Finally our first club event in an age down to Jindabyne - a perennial well received event staying at CSIRO Ski Club lodge. Many thanks have been passed to the club from ours.

Also, people have been getting out on their own. Some reported here, others only via the grapevine. Don't forget folks, reports on your successes are always welcome for the newsletter.

BJ has done it again with a cracking brown achieving cover pic status.

Coming Events

Meeting: 10th March.

Via Zoom again perhaps - all the details will be sent via email.

Fly Tying: 24th March 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

4-6 Mar – Tantangara under the leadership of Claude. RSVP to Claude by 25 Feb. More information was sent via email, also see our [news blog](#).

Goodradigbee

Jaime and Bill

It all started when Jaime indicated to Bill he was planning to fish the Goodradigbee near the road to Tumut and camp out at a campsite on the river visible on Google Maps. Jaime had not noticed that access to the campsite was from Tantangara – hmm, 300km drive to get to bed! Instead we decided to take a bit of an explore on Sunday afternoon (24 Jan).

We drove down the road on the west bank ignoring the 'locked gate ahead' sign just to see what was what. An ACT vehicle parked at the bridge gave cause for some concern but we pressed on. It would appear that Jaime, through an old mate, John LaSalle (now deceased), had previously had access from that road but unfortunately the contact had been lost. We drove past the sign for the Kentucky property where Bill explained how CAA had lost its access to the house many years before he joined. One possible public access was identified, but the overgrowth of trees deterred us. In due course we arrived at the locked gate where signs made it quite clear further progress was blocked. Back to Plan B on the Eastern bank.

Driving back revealed at least two other anglers on the water – being polite we went a deal upstream of the dude fishing up from the bridge and stopped at the Travelling Stock Reserve. The water has changed a lot over the years but it still looked inviting.

Both of us commenced with hopper/dropper with Jaime starting with faster water downstream while Bill headed up through the riffles and flat pools.



Bill had no joy until reaching one pool where delicate sips were occurring – a number of dry fly changes brought no result other than fish nosing the fly. While there a rather rude fellow came, stopped his car and fished with lures immediately upstream – what is this world coming to? Bill walked downstream to work out what happened to his companion which revealed ...

Jaime was having a great day. After catching brown a bit below 30cm with the Stimulator in the first run, he switched to EuroNymphing in a faster deep run.

Funny note here: while recovering his fly snagged in the blackberries he found a 2-fly rig all entangled in the same bush. It was clearly from a previous euronymphing probably casting from the opposite side of the river. Both flies were exactly the same: 2 very slim PTN, one just with a heavier bead than the other (but both very heavy).



Given the strong and deep run he decided to thank the odds and used one of them. Second cast and boom! nice rainbow that measured 35cm.



Jaime said he hadn't had a fish that strong and feisty since 4 years ago. It wasn't a monster but probably the strong current had it very fit; it was also a chunky boy (or girl). In fact, he was worried all the time that the 5X tippet was going to break because the fight and the strong current. The fish was so full of energy that it kicked free when Jaime was trying to take a good photo (so only one photo while it was in the net). Two more rainbows under 30's followed this one in the same deep run, all with the same heavy nymph "fallen from the sky". Jaime went back to catch up with Bill. A bit upstream from where both initially started he caught another fish still euro-nymphing - a brown - in a run just vacated by Bill.

With heavy heart, Bill removed the dry and reverted to double nymph indicator fishing in the water previously successful for Jaime. Ian will be impressed that he caught his first fish of the day (maybe the same, or twin, feisty 35cm rainbow mentioned above) at the end of the drift – the rising nymph does work ... what is the name of that behaviour?). A number of others followed including one fish that must have been stocked last December as a fry – however did he get his mouth around that #16?

While casting his micro-caddis fly, Jaime caught a not very usual catch that died instantly, decapitated... but still moving its legs. Jaime initially thought it was a piece of grass product of a low back cast, but it wasn't.



Our plan was to stay till dusk when we found a limited number of rises with few insects hatching. Both caught good fish, Jaime's a measured 34 cm brown by drifting their dries downstream to rising fish.

When it got pitch black it was time to head home.



Trout Cod In Lake Eucumbene?

Jason M

I was in Compleat Angler getting some hooks yesterday, and heard a gentleman saying he was fishing Lake Eucumbene near Buckenderra and landed a trout cod. After enquiring with Steve Samuels I received the following response "Heard about it last week and I know the guy. He was trolling opposite Buckenderra. He is quite credible but sadly he did not take a photo. I have advised Fisheries. Most likely - if correct - it might have been an illegal transfer from Talbingo."

Jindabyne Trip 11-13 Feb

Bill

This trip was much anticipated, certainly by me. As trip co-ordinator, can I thank everyone for coming and participating so wholeheartedly? The camaraderie exhibited makes these trips so worthwhile for all. In the end, 11 attended on Friday with the addition of another on Saturday. The party included Stephen (who has left Canberra, perhaps to be considered a Sydney chapter of CAA?) and two 'blow-ins' from Melbourne (Rob and his mate Artur). Ian, Lyall and Bill first met Rob on a river in New Zealand and we have remained in contact. When Rob came through Canberra last year, I suggested that, if the lodge was not fully booked by CAA members, he might join us and so it came to be.

My report follows:

Friday started off a bit dreary. After arrival at the lodge Ian and I found Ken arriving just as we were about to head off to the Thredbo at the skitube. A short delay and our increased party headed off. Then, arriving at the skitube party, we were getting some intel from another angler ("plenty of fish on the dry, a number of edge risers to caddis") when Al Mc arrived. Accordingly,



Al and I headed upstream, while Ken and Ian headed down.

Our Kiwi friend was first to strike in a fast run that I had covered ... there is a pattern setting in here unworthy of measurement or photograph, I believe it was a pretty fish and not some trifling fingerling.

The edge risers were in number, some of them clearly larger fish, but weren't to be tempted. Al and I managed a couple each in the sub-20cm class before pulling stumps.

On Saturday, I chauffeured Owen and Stephen up to Dead Horse Gap to fish the upper Thredbo near the Cascade Hut walk crossing. This had proven to be quite successful last year. The good news was that the hill didn't seem that hard this year, thanks to my heart surgery I'd contend.

Fish were a little fewer, but Owen and I landed two fish each, both browns and rainbows, 18cm and 20cm specimens for each of us. Bonus points for each of us as one fish each was on a dry. Water was a little higher than last year and clear but the big ones seem to be absent.



We sauntered down to the Ranger Station and subsequently Ngarigo campsite - overrun by mountain bikers camping. A number of modest fish were spotted wandering across the clear water so Owen and I spent time spotting fish, monitoring and coaching Stephen on the finer points of streamcraft. Stephen's casting has improved, but he still awaits his first capture. It'll come in due course, but his morale must not have been improved when a member (Ken??) saying "it was years before I caught my first trout" :-)



On Sunday, it was the turn of Ian and Stephen to come up with me to Perisher Creek. Trout capture eluded Stephen and while I enticed a few with one of Peter's "induced rises" I only managed one on for a short time. Meanwhile Ian did quite well further up the stream.

Stephen

I enjoyed the break down at Thredbo. Thank you everyone for your instruction and good humour, and especially to the co-ordinator Bill. I look forward to more trips with the boys. Hopefully I will catch a fish soon.

Ken

Had a very enjoyable day on Saturday with Rob and Artur. Didn't fish intensely but steadily and had a good chat throughout the day - look forward to any future encounters with them.



Artur



Also saw a few
wiggly sticks and
reinforced for me the
merits of wearing
waders even if hot.

*Rob provided this
photo of Ken
complete with
some snowflake
caddis in the air*





Alan looking very relaxed.

Nothing happened at Guthega dam on Sunday. I reckon it would be a tough one to fish and would need the right conditions to bring the fish up from the depths.

Owen

Thanks again for the well organised weekend with a pretty good group of guys.

On Sunday I didn't catch any fish near the Lodge or Kalkite but there were fish rising at Kalkite and I'm sure earlier there would have been more. Lots of people, vehicles and boats at the boat ramp. The water has dropped 5+m on the grassy slope making fishing access easy along the shore line.

*A Dead Horse Gap
Fly Fish Catch.*



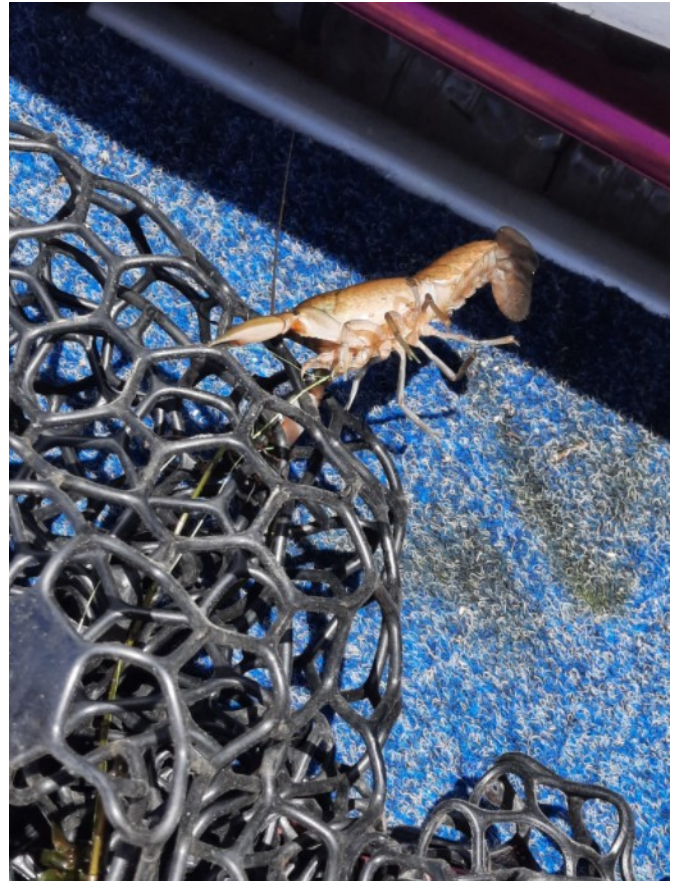
Jason M



Catching up with everyone for dinner on Saturday, there was still time to rig a fly and pop down to the foreshore for some dusk fishing. The wind was up a bit, but the summer sudden drop in temperature was tempered by an overcast sunset, which I feared may not trigger the

typical hatch. However, coming down the road to pick my starting point, I could see some small fish leaping by the shore. Creeping up to the rocks and preparing a cast, it was almost like Czech nymphing being so close. I did see quite nice brown rise a couple of times further out. As usual, the wind gusts brought the fish on the rise. Seeing a fish chase its prey like a mud skipper, I enjoyed casting around, probably seeking more a reaction strike than presenting their prey. They seemed too small to hit my fly, missing a few. I flicked one down near my 'mudskipper' tussock, and the fly was immediately hit. The fish took off, and in the low light was obviously bigger than it seemed, and I was pleased the \$15 reel I bought at Pratts still had a smooth enough drag. After working it to a lower shore, it got in the net. After hunting through my bag for a ruler, and using my phone for a light after my headlamp was too dim for white light, I found I had a nice 35cm rainbow. It hadn't fattened up too much, but gave a nice fight, & was still fit enough to swim away.

After a morning cuppa it was off to Jindabyne to launch, and I tried some trolling back to the lodge, trying out a lead core line that came with a secondhand baitcaster. A few fish splashed around behind my lures, but no strikes. After a cooked breakfast and cleanup, I then cruised north in the boat, trying out some lures and trolling methods. Some fish were visible on the sounder, but there didn't seem much action, which was expected with a clear sky and minimal wind. My Tassie Devil though did bring up someone else Tassie Devil and a yabbie in the process (at least I caught something).



I took the opportunity for some footage with a fish-eye lens, [see video](#), cooling off after a troll and getting the perspective of the trout. Alas I didn't find my Rapala Deep Tail Dancer I had been trolling (\$10 reward if anyone finds the Brown Tiger).

A good chance to catch up with club members and swap fishing tips. Another fine club outing, courtesy of Bill.



The stiles at Kalkite are just on the water's edge now the lake is lower.



(Ed: I like this waterskiing trick structure – mountain bike bridge over an inflated Wollondibby Creek. The track needs to be rethought :-)

Stefan

Thanks for organising a great weekend. A picture of Rendezvous Ck(trb off Mowamba). Now I know why I learned Français, that I could pronounce the spot where I caught a 🐟, if I hadn't dropped it 😞. Nice tight water.



BJ

Thanks for another fun trip Bill.

Moonbah on Sat. Al again picked up numbers up to 15 of mostly brown, a few were larger than his picture below. I managed less in the net but 1 made up for a few. That was a 3lber. Elk Hair Caddis was the choice. Fish came in patches of a few per run.





Gungarlin on postcard day of high density smaller fish (upto 11"). Mostly Rainbows taking small and large flies at times. Couple of browns. AI counted 11 through the one tight run he entered below.





I neglected earlier to thank you for organising again. Such a great facility and home base for the whole region. Also handy it was split in 2 for social distancing floor loading. Albeit disappointing we didn't all share a noise space for stories.

Recently Seen on Instagram

Peter has been having some success, his posts have shown three good trout amongst a much larger number not photographed – 42, 33 and 32 cm – all rainbows.



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.

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.

[DPI "Go Fishing" Guides](#)

[Trout Cod Stocked in our Region](#)

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.

One item of key news – the 30 Apr-1 May Interclub Meet has been cancelled again due to COVID.

February Newsletter was announced on our News Blog. Key items:

- DPI Fisheries staff rescued almost 100 Murray crayfish
- Last call for RFANSW produced safety DVDs
- Animal welfare policy inquiry extended
- Trout cod stocking in the upper Murrumbidgee
- The next meeting Ordinary General Meeting of all members will be on Saturday 19 February 2022 via Zoom.
- Thanks passed to NSWCFCA Foundation Members – donators to the Council operations.

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Not arrived yet. 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](#).

Fisheries Victoria News – 'Nibbles'

Not arrived yet. 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).

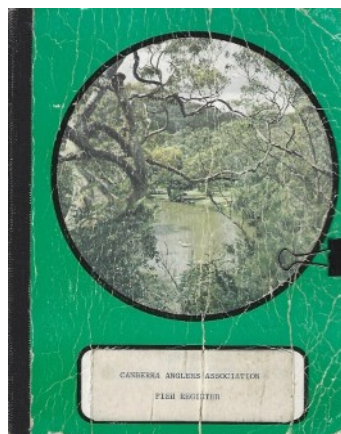
Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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
Oct	We can anticipate Go Fishing Day NSW version. https://gonefishingday.com.au/
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 https://visitcooma.com.au/events/2021-anaconda-trout-challenge/
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 https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids

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?
Jaime	Browns and Rainbows	Best to 35cm	Fly	Goodradigbee 24 Jan
Bill	Browns and Rainbows	Best to 35cm	Fly	Goodradigbee 24 Jan
Peter	Rainbows	Best to 42cm	Fly	Cotter, ???
BJ	Brown	"3lb"	Fly	Jindy trip, 11-13 Feb
Jason M	Rainbow	35cm	Fly	Jindy trip, 11-13 Feb
Bill	Rainbows and browns	Best at 20cm	Fly	Jindy trip, 11-13 Feb
Owen	Rainbows and browns	Best at 20cm	Fly	Jindy trip, 11-13 Feb

Contact Us

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Burley Line contributions to:
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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