

THE BURLEY LINE



Eli's Giant Barra

(see the story inside)



From the Editor's Desk

Been an interesting start to the year, with more rain than we've seen in a while. So much so that Claude took the big step of cancelling the Tantangara trip – well, he thought he had whereas two of the club decided to go up anyway. Claude did reply to a message with photo of fish “I thought you'd go up :-)”. Report inside of a successful though short trip.

On the admin front, news about our affiliation with ANSA, along with what that actually means in respect to benefits which can accrue. We'll see how this relationship evolves. Also from the committee, a call for trip and other activity organisers to step forward to identify themselves along with ideas for our program – get your thinking caps on folks.

I want to thank Tristan for words and photos here. He's a relatively new member but is clearly getting well engaged in the club.

Plenty of fishing reports from far and wide inside (look at the photo of the month folks) and an informative TV report that folk will find interesting. A few of us were involved in stocking of fingerlings down on the lower Monaro – but a highlight was seeing some of the tiger trout that Gaden are breeding.

A strong level of interest in Greg W's Goodradigbee trip has meant it was filled quite early, though a late withdrawal created a chance opportunity two weeks out taken up quickly. Anyway, we look forward to the report next issue.

Coming Events

Meeting: 13th April.

All the details will be sent via email.

Fly Tying: 27th April 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

1-3 Apr – Goodradigbee under Greg W's leadership.

2022/23 Event Calendar

While the end of our 2021/2022 calendar is still a little while away, the committee are starting the process of developing the 2022/2023 event schedule. As Claude says, there is a real bonus if you step up to lead as you get to choose the location and date. Shaun is investigating if he can source competition and ACTFF event dates to encourage a level of deconfliction. Note that Claude is including club nights (presentations/activities) and fly tying not just the weekend fishing events. It would be great to have some nominations early so Lyall and the committee don't have to chase down volunteers later in the year.

Claude has already volunteered to do the Tantangara and Carp outings...He's hoping we still have lots of rain next year....but not on the weekends and flooding our events!

Bill has put his name down for Jindabyne – the date selected will ensure it is after school goes back in the new year.

If the Goodradigbee event this year goes down well, maybe Greg W can be inspired to run one next year.

Anyway, have a think about what events might be good for the club, and think seriously about putting your name in – it is a lot of fun.

CAA Affiliates with NSW branch of the Australian National Sportfishing Association (ANSA NSW)

Bill

The idea of affiliating with ANSA was discussed at a CAA meeting some time ago. The affiliation has now occurred.

This affiliation has a number of benefits including access to a well priced group Public Liability Insurance and having ANSA provide a channel for our voice in respect to recreational fishing. Read more about ANSA [here](#). In respect to the PLI, our previous insurer offered Personal Accident and Death insurance within the club PLI. The ANSA underwriter does not do similarly, however read on.



CAA members can individually join ANSA and receive the individual benefits such as being eligible for appearing in the ANSA record books, see more [here](#). In respect to the loss of our previous personal insurance, financial individual ANSA members are covered by ANSA's Personal Accident and Death insurance. ANSA ideally wants its members to participate in some of their events, but even if you don't want to participate in activities, the benefit of accident insurance and supporting an organisation achieving outcomes is well worth consideration. The current fee structure for ANSA membership is -

- Family - \$15 (maximum 2 Seniors / unlimited juniors)
- Senior - \$14 (over 16 at the time of joining)
- Student - Free (over 16 and in full time study)

- Junior - Free (under 16 at time of joining)

These fees are currently at a concessional level as a National gesture to financially support ANSA clubs and their members over the COVID 19 pandemic. It is possible that fees will be restored to their normal level for the next forthcoming financial year.

I have been advised that if there are members of CAA who wish to join ANSA it may be financially advantageous to hold off doing this until 1 April 2022. Members joining up with ANSA after 1 April are not only financial for the remainder of the current year but also deemed to be financial members for the next financial year.

If you want to join ANSA (I am going to), contact the CAA Membership Officer (currently me) and I'll do the paperwork co-ordinated with the Treasurer who can process your payment to ANSA through the CAA bank account.

Like Father Like Son

Check out our photo of the month!! JQ has recently reported on how Eli is improving as an angler – he has just turned 5 and has put many of us to shame as evidenced here. Jason tells me “it was such a cool moment. He wasn’t as excited as me... and he didn’t want to hold it cus he’s been spiked before! Was on a 5inch soft plastic. He’s a handy little fisher! There was a bigger one follow it but not eat... that was painful!”.

My response was that it was lucky Eli didn’t catch it on his てんから rod (for those who can’t read Japanese, it reads as ‘tenkara’).

Like Father Like Daughter

And also from Tristan and Olive.

Tristan

Olive with a scale trout! ❤️

Caught one of those old Kmart solid glass kids spinning rods with a fly reel and line - actually casts surprisingly well with about a 7wt line!





That's the rod we used - solid glass, from an op shop.

I finished a split cane rod for Olive - hoping to get to some water this week or weekend to test it out, and will take some photos.

Pretty rough but I think it'll be surprisingly useful - it ended up 4'1" long, with a slight cheat - it has a section of recycled carbon rod in the handle and reel seat to maximise the length. It's fun for short distances!

I bought the guides brand new, but the handle is recycled from an old rod, the reel seat was shaped from Huon pine using a router and plane, and the ring and butt are aluminium tube and a Canadian coin (Olive is half Canadian after all).

Not sure it's the best rod to learn on, and I doubt she'll have the patience for quite a while... but it's cute!





Tristan also sent me some photos of a secret location only accessible by bike!





Received in my In-Box

Got this marvellous image from Mark S. "The boys have been catching cod around a metre, but on lures. This one was on fly."

I think well in excess of 75cm.



On a more disturbing note, I received an email referring to studies in Brisbane showing that a chemical from tyres linked to mass salmon deaths in US has been found in Australia for first time. [Click here.](#)

Tantangara Club Trip 4-6 Mar – or not

Jason M and Bill

Apparent poor conditions and a nasty forecast led Claude to cancel the trip. Meanwhile our two 'never say die' anglers decided that, since the heavy rain was forecast for after lunch on Saturday, there'd be a window of opportunity to head up beforehand. Jason's paid employ meant that we couldn't leave till after work, so we ended up arriving late on Friday night. Jason had previously booked into Ghost Gully campground (north of Tantangara) rather than the club's destination of Ware's Stockyard. This campground gave greater access to our target locations on the Murrumbidgee in lieu of the lake proper. His commitments also meant that he was originally only intending to stay the one night, and watching the weather forecast it looked good for both the Friday and Saturday, at least until 2pm Saturday. As such, we developed a plan to pitch camp late, but rise with the dawn and select from a few fishing options depending on the track, river, and lake conditions.



The clouds were threatening at dusk, but rain didn't eventuate overnight. "Red sky at night ..."



Our cosy campsite

*The fire wasn't
really needed
for warmth, but
enhanced the
ambience of the
setting*



(in-tents photo Bill)



“Red sky in the morning” – perhaps should have warned us

The drive into Tantangara via the Port Philip Fire Trail was totally uneventful except to acknowledge that road conditions were much better than last year. Indeed the side track to the river (Dam Trail) was far, far better than we faced last year. None of the boggy bits were there, or had been bypassed on firmer ground. That said, we didn't even attempt to drive down the last few hundred metres to the river flat like we did last year as the conditions nearer to the water looked very dodgy.



Muffler's Creek confluence with the Murrumbidgee in the early fog – we ended up fishing below the junction

At first, very few fish were actually showing themselves but the occasional jumper proved that fish were present. The

banks were diabolical with soft mud on the edges coming from silt deposits when the lake was recently higher.

Bill was first on the board with a 27cm brown taken on an elkhair caddis in riffly water – this would prove to be the experience with many of the fish taken. In fact Jason and Bill only caught one rainbow each – one of them on a nymph. All the remainder were browns taken on the dry.

Jason with perhaps his best. We have prepared two videos as examples of competently netting fish that some in the club might take note of.

Jason, Bill.



*Jason's
Best
brown*



*Jason's rainbow, and
subsequent release*

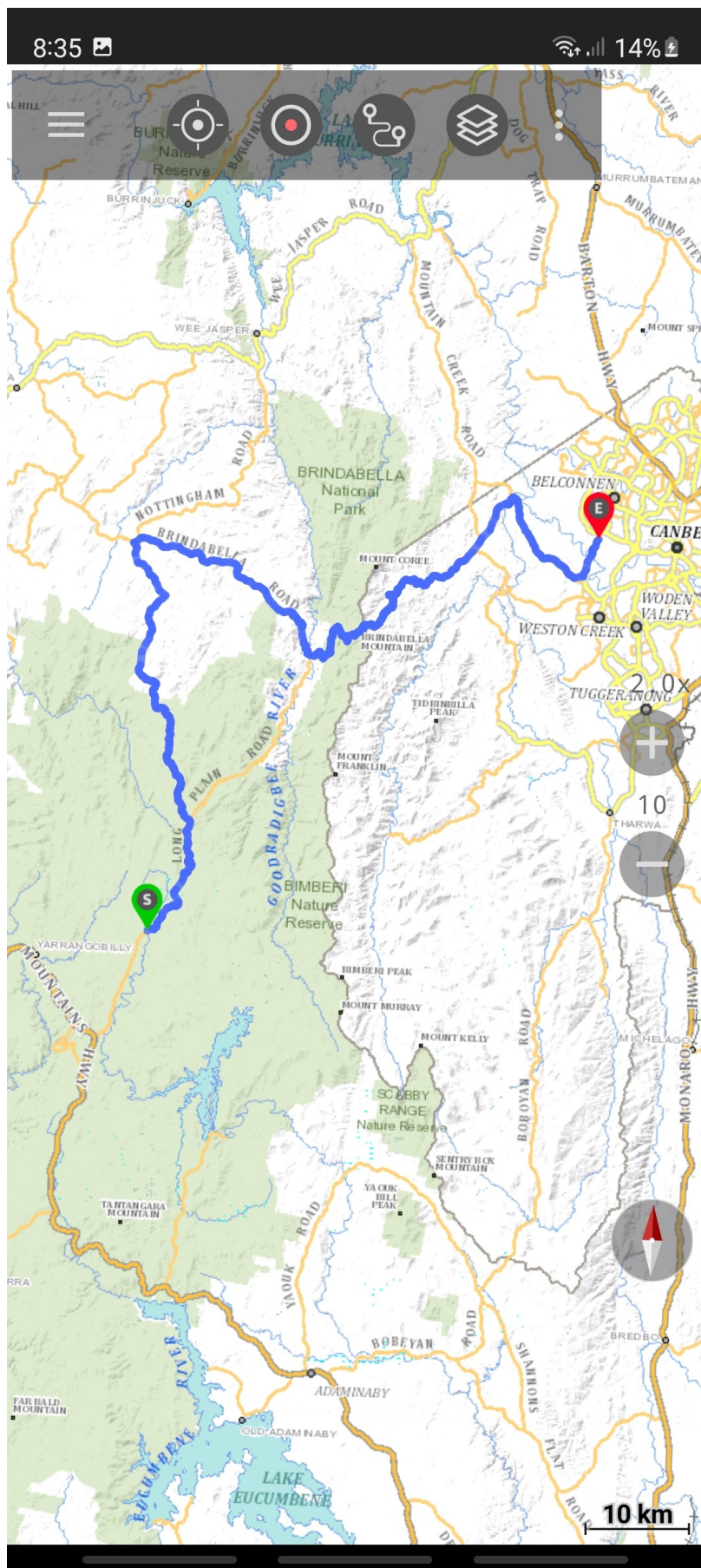




Best rainbow (measured) from Bill – you can see the circle hook that the fish had expelled – the line was still out of her mouth complete with a swivel.

Working upstream proved very productive, especially for Bill. He rated the morning as perhaps the best fishing he's had in Australia (in respect to numbers) and he gave up counting fish – all but the rainbow above on the dry, the browns almost exclusively in the 25-30cm range.

As lunchtime drew near some early sprinkles and threatening clouds basically called a halt to proceedings. After lunch we spent some time validating some of the Murrumbidgee River access points registered on [DPI's Angler Access website](#). Once completed, the decision was made to explore an alternative route home.



The Long Plain Road is controversially blocked near the Goodradigbee, but Jason believed there was an alternative route further west through the Bondo State Forest. In due course we found a slightly confusing sign advising us to travel on Barnett's Road.

Suffice to say that we did get home in about 4 and half hours – not bad, especially given the conditions (the forecast storm didn't hold anything back). Check out [this video](#) and [this](#).

All in all, a great overnight trip and we were both happy we snuck in the opportunity.

Goodradigbee Continues to Fire for Alan S and Ken

Two of our folk got up to the river – their experience bodes well for Greg W's outing

Alan S with Ken

I fished the "peasant's" lower section of that river yesterday with Ken we found numerous fish including a few at 30 cm with Ken landing a 32 cm.

Only saw rainbow trout on Sunday. Ken only used a dry fly but got a lot of fish on a small CDC of his own making, a parachute Adams. The bigger fish were in water deeper than 12 inches.



Lake Eucumbene

Bill

Been a while since I'd been out with one mate to do some night time fishing. Two to the net, this photo of one caught on dusk that was released without measuring, but seemed smaller than the 40cm jack that we did measure next. Very quiet after that, even with the lake surface alive with adult midges scuttering everywhere – Steve Samuels later advised me that the trout can't see

these insects well enough once it gets dark, more likely to attract rises around dusk. The lake goes up well past the Portal even though it seemed lower than I've seen it before at Angler's Reach. The lake was reportedly at 47%.



Fingerling Stocking in the Monaro Region

Bill

A number of CAA members (Peter, Mark and me) are also members of Queanbeyan Angling Club and thus part of the Monaro Acclimatisation Society. We were recently invited to assist another sub-branch to conduct the autumn stocking of fingerlings (think a fish up to 10cm long). Peter and I helped out with stocking the lower MacLaughlin.

Collecting the fish at Gaden Hatchery gave us a glimpse of the Tiger Trout (eggs from brown trout, milt from brook trout). These fish are part of a 3 year research program to place in waters dominated by redfin. The fish are sterile but grow quite prodigiously. They are expected to survive redfin predation and maybe also help control the number of redfin. We saw fish over 15cm long which were the same age as the fingerling browns we were stocking.



Always good to check out the brook trout too.



Yaouk and Nearby Murrumbidgee

AI McH with help from BJ



BJ and I treated ourselves to a sunny Sunday on the Yaouk Creek and Murrumbidgee River and were not disappointed. New to Canberra, you can call me surprised when we headed down the Tuggeranong Parkway and just kept going into some beautiful Australian countryside. We didn't stop at the Gudgenby, but it had plenty of water and looked fishy. We did however, try our hand at the Yaouk Creek. Now I thought the name was a bit off, given it was deep, swift and very river like. I had no reference point, but it did appear a bit deeper than



one would expect, and lots dirtier. It was certainly fishable, but we only managed a few tiddlers and debated the likelihood of larger fish being hunkered down somewhere. Highlights did include the large and scary looking snake I spooked from the long grass into the river, and the platypus that was still active in the tail of a pool at 10am. It was an amazing spot and I was able to get some great scenic photos, but no grip and grins!

Serpentine curves of Yaouk Creek – mirrors our reptilian friends.



On to the Murrumbidgee itself, which we immediately noticed was significantly clearer, and I would suggest not as unusually high. I understand it's tradition to hook and fail to land a massive trout amongst the reeds near the bridge. So I did. I think. Maybe. Once this ritual was complete I headed upstream to find BJ landing trout all over. Rising trout were rare, but when we did cast to a swirl we were often rewarded. There were a lot of false takes, and BJ suggested we were seeing swamping of the stimulators followed by a take if we were patient. A new experience for

me. We were catching trout on both dries and small droppers of varying lengths. I don't think the trout were very picky about choice of nymph, but I did sense a good drift was particularly important, as was keeping the motion in the water to a minimum in slower pools.



The trout were throughout, but were more actively and aggressively feeding where there was a decent flow and some cover. We both caught a number of 30cm plus rainbows that put up a good fight. BJ had one leap onto the bank where it was able to shake the hook and return itself to the water.

It was a great day's fishing, the road is in ok condition but watch out for some of the deeper ruts with no warning.



Fly Tying 23 Mar – the Bredbo

BJ

Like a March Brown or Greenwell's Glory wet. The tented wing helps them sit in the still water film for quite a while..



[More information](#) in our Fly Tying Blog.

Macquarie Perch Initiatives

Many of us may have seen the ABC Landline episode on multiple efforts to support the recovery of Macquarie Perch. Don Barton, immediate Past President of NSWCFR, gets to say a few words – check out the size of the brown trout being relocated during that segment. Good to hear the general agreement on the major issues – habitat loss, barriers to breeding migration and impact of English Perch. Reference to Brown Trout as 'competing for food' rather than predating on Macquaries was also reassuring. Hormonal supplements to encourage Maccas to spawn in captivity was fascinating stuff.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/programs/landline/2022-03-12/macquarie-perch-revival-a-breeding-program-for/13794116>

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.

Gaden Hatchery Report May2021-Feb2022

Some interesting information here along with a photo of a scarily big brown that was caught in the hatchery trap, plus an image of a tiger trout if you've not see one before. I was intrigued as

to why many fish (ova and juveniles) were sent up to Dutton Hatchery (located at Ebor in New England). I was advised by MAS that Dutton doesn't have access to trap spawning fish running upstream like Gaden can do. Instead Dutton retains brood rainbows, and browns are provided from Gaden – interesting factoid for you.

The Flyfisher's Podcast

A recommended podcast – the starting link is [here](#). Also been added to our “[useful links](#)” page.

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 placemark.

Lake Lyell ANSA Convention 2022

Our first ANSA competition, 27-29 May – register by 13 May. There are some big trout in these waters, and some of the famed 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 [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.

March issue arrived too late for our February issue of Burley Line. Was advised on our news blog. Top items were:

- The Millpond – a great new public fishery ... the associated image is an impressive rainbow
- Blackwater events in NSW following some recent heavy rain
- NSWCFR Interclub meet cancelled
- Blue Mountains could lose World Heritage status if Warragamba dam plan goes ahead
- Four Corners on feral horses
- Notes from Ordinary General Meeting on Saturday 19 February
- Thank you to Foundation Members

April issue has arrived and advised on news blog. Top items:

- Is Snowy Hydro 2.0 a white elephant? (*Ed: I think a bit overstated that it **will** bring feral fish into Tantangara. There is certainly a justifiable fear*).
- Opera House yabby trap offences at Balranald
- Sometimes good habitat is not enough – a report on native fish in the lowe Goodradigbee

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](#).

Similarly to NSWCFR, the February Issue arrived a little late. Available on our news blog. Key points were:

- Habitat restoration on the Richmond River
- Last call for safe fishing DVDs
- Expired flare collection program
- Floodplain harvesting licences knocked back by NSW Upper House
- 'Fishing in the Good Old Days – Was it really better?' by Bob Kearney

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).

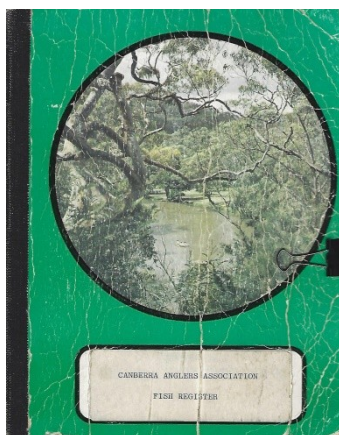
Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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
27 May-29 May	Lake Lyell ANSA Convention
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
Jason	One rainbow and many browns	Best, a rainbow at 30cm	Fly	Murrumbidgee, 5 Mar
Bill	One rainbow and many browns	Best, a rainbow at 37cm	Fly	Murrumbidgee, 5 Mar
Eli	Barra	75cm	Soft Plastic	Cairns, recently
Bill	Two browns	Best at 40cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 11 Mar

Ken and Alan S	Numerous Rainbows including a few at 30cm	Ken's best 32cm	Fly	Goodradigbee River, 13 Mar
Shaun	Brown	45cm	Fly	Bolaro Bridge Murrumbidgee, 27 Mar

Contact Us

Canberra Anglers Association Inc.

PO Box 4115
Hawker, ACT, 2614

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

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

Find us on
facebook

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