

# THE BURLEY LINE



## **Burrum Heads Sunset**

(see the story inside)



## From the Editor's Desk

I had thought this would be a rather thin edition – how wrong I was. Seems there's a number of us who have been out and about even Al getting into trout down south (report held over from last month). Many thanks to our contributors. I would welcome articles from everyone for our next edition – can you get the stuff to me by 25 July please?

So ... inside we've got a report on some Victorian trout river fishing (Al exploring his new domain), Roger provides a report based on his presentation to the June meeting (the start of his round the world bike ride), Ian giving us a feel about his regular winter sojourn at Burrum Heads, a short report from JM on long service leave up north (forgot his go-pro so no fish imagery), finally, yours truly and JQ test out some swaffing in Cairns.

Got an interesting article come into my in-box on [sharpening up your casting](#). Be interesting to see Lyall's opinion, but I'm going to try the "Slip-Lift" Pick-up. In due course I'll put an item in our [Beginners blog](#) ... indeed the newsletter used to have a small, irregular, segment on 'tips' provided by members for members. I'll slowly upload those into the Beginners blog too – note that the title perhaps is misleading, there's a lot there for everyone of every skill level.

Everyone would have seen the email from Lyall about next year's program. Still a work in progress it seems though I've already seen that one more event has been confirmed. So folks please step up and propose an event, and hopefully offer to lead (it is not an onerous task if we spread it around).

### Coming Events

#### **Meeting: 13<sup>th</sup> July.**

All the details will be sent via email.

#### **Fly Tying: 27<sup>th</sup> July 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**

no more events this season, unless someone wants to propose something

AGM coming up soon in August

# Four and a half rivers in four days!

AI

Inspired by my brief foray into the Eildon region during Troutfest 22 I decided to make the most of my week off between jobs and return to this beautiful area for four more days of exploration.

The first thing I decided to do was take a slight detour through suburban Melbourne to visit Aussie Angler. This is a very impressive fishing shop split into distinctly fly and non fly stores. I bought some essentials and sought some advice, but it was getting too late to dawdle. I am definitely looking forward to spending a bit more time here at some stage in the future.



I arrived at the Rubicon's Boys camp around 1930 and once again car camped within earshot of the river. The next day I fished up from

Boys initially to the hydro plant, catching the occasional brown and landing three large fish I initially thought were brook trout or hybrids. Check out the photos and u guys decide – final conclusion was that they were spawning browns. Two of them were missing fins. The third was a bit bigger and appeared much healthier. They were fun to catch, and were caught legitimately, but I saw a quite a few, they were lethargic and probably could have been caught by 'scratching' if I had been so inclined.





After chatting with some staff at the hydro plant which is temporarily out of commission, I pushed on up the now much smaller Rubicon and caught a few small browns out of very small pockets. This was very steep, very hard work. Given it was still early I had a crack between Kendalls and Boys and I think got one more brown, and saw lots more “brookies” but with no joy on them. I see decided to make the most of the daylight and drove to The Pines campground on the bank of Big River.



After a very wet evening I walked down the road a ways before bush bashing down to the river bed just downstream of Burntbridge camping area. This was a terrible mistake as I ended up in a vast, semi gorgey slow moving area in which traversing the river was impossible. Up I went, then back into Burntbridge. Much more accessible and better fishing. I fished back up to The Pines and did catch a few rainbows but overall I just wasn't feeling the vibe, suspecting much of this section of the river would have lent itself to euro-nymphing.

It was still pretty early so I leapt into the car and drove to Jamieson, grabbed a coffee, and parked up the upper-upper Goulburn at Skipworth Reserve.

Wow this, this is a beautiful spot and I was stoked to immediately start catching nice conditioned, but not huge, rainbows in the



swift stuff right at the camp itself. I continued to catch fish up this beautiful stretch of river right up to dusk. A particular highlight was the two sambar deer I spooked on the river bank. This river felt quite similar to some of the smaller rivers in the Wairarapa in NZ.



After a quiet night in this beautiful campsite I was really starting to feel a bit fatigued so I treated myself to some real coffee and a toastie in Jamieson's Cafe before heading north and then east towards Mt Buller and the upper Delatite River.

Cor, talk about different again! I parked in the Sawmill area and found myself on a very small, steepish mountain type stream with lots of bedrock, trees, and it turns out, trout! These were super hungry and in great condition. The highlight was watching them come up out of (relatively) deep clear water to hit my dry, especially in the tails of the pools. A bow and arrow cast could have been useful but I made do, and only lost a few flies to the overhangs.



I had driven over the Delatite lower down in farming country earlier, and I was keen for something a bit different so I drove back down and parked off Hearn's Rd. This was very different fishing, still lots of bedrock but much more coloured water, and deeper slower stretches. I found the fishing much more challenging than any previously, but just as I was getting frustrated I caught a nice brown. I also found a few riverside properties I would have been happy to own! I am sure there's lots more trout in this stretch than I found.



Next stop that evening was Alexandra and a \$5 shower at the showground followed by a parma at the Corner Hotel which was packed on a Thursday. This was my first clean and real meal since Melbourne! Then on to Brooks River Reserve Campground for what I sensed would be a cold, cold night with the night very clear. Why only four and a half rivers? Well my last river was, technically, the Goulburn again, but so so different to two days earlier I have scored it again. I had taken some advice in the pub the night before about where to try my luck in the Goulburn below the pondage, and my initial plan was to fish from Breakaway to Gilmores and then somehow get back to the car. I was super keen but when I arrived at Breakaway on the Friday morning there was already someone fishing in the fog. Instead, I drove to Gilmores, and despite the two other cars, so no other fishers so I began fishing upstream.



I fished to two trout in the shallow reedy areas that were actively breaking the surface with back and tail. This got me excited for the technique Aussie Angler had suggested I use, which was a Royal Wulff or equivalent, followed 12 inches later by a tiny dry. Unfortunately I fished this technique unsuccessfully almost all the way to the Thornton Bridge where I met a successful angler using... stimmy-dropper! As soon as I switched to hopper-dropper I was catching fish

in the same waters this gentlemen had just fished, included a beautiful yellow and deeply speckled brown. My fish of the trip.



Whilst I was stoked, I was also lamenting all the amazing water I was the first to fish that day, only using the wrong technique. Next time! For those interested, the walk between Thornton and Gilmores Bridges is very manageable and is definitely justified by the quality of isolated fishing. Overall for a Friday I thought the river was quite busy, and whilst first on river probably did best, you could definitely fish soon after someone else and still do well.

Overall this was a great way to spend four days, checking out four and a half rivers. Next time I intend to fish the Hoqua, Jamieson, more of the upper-upper Goulburn, and more of the Goulburn. I am going to save the very popular Steavenson for day trips as it is that much closer to our new home.

## The World Fishing by Motorbike Part 1

Roger was guest speaker for our June meeting where he spoke to photos and maps about his epic adventure so far. The notes will also be kept in our [“places to go fishing”](#) segment on the blog.



## Roger

As some of you may know I'm on a motorcycle/fly fishing odyssey which will take me from Vancouver BC to Alaska, across Canada to Nova Scotia, then on to the UK and Europe. I was going to continue east from Europe, through central Asia, Mongolia and parts of Eastern Russia but for obvious reasons this leg is unlikely to come to fruition.

So far I have travelled from Vancouver, through British Columbia and Yukon, to Anchorage, and down the Kenai Peninsula. My first fishing destination was Chilliwack, about 100 km east of Vancouver, where I fished the Vedder/Chilliwack river. I spent a week there trying to catch a steelhead using a spey rod but unfortunately was not successful.



I then rode 1,200 km north to Terrace on the Skeena River which is another steelhead hotspot with a number of major tributaries that also contain steelhead. Unfortunately, the Skeena basin was closed to steelhead fishing due to poor returns so I spent a couple of weeks in my tent in the municipal camp ground on Ferry Island in the rain which was not a lot of fun.

After my stay in Terrace I rode north, west and then south to Anchorage Alaska. After a short stay in Anchorage, I rode south to Kasilof on the Kasilof river. I have been camping there for the past 2 weeks trying to catch a King Salmon on a spey rod. Catching these fish on a swung fly is not an easy task and the best I have done is a



fairly solid tug. I only know of 3 other King salmon caught or lost on spey since I have been at Kasilof. Unfortunately, my luck with river closures has not improved and the Kasilof as well as all the other rivers in the peninsular has been closed to King Salmon fishing due to poor returns.



I did manage to catch a steelhead there however. I'm told this is a 'spawned out hen' which explains the poor condition and the return to silver colouration. I caught it doing single handed spey with an OPST Skagit head on a 9' 6# and it put up a reasonable fight.

My plan now is to head north on the George Parkes Highway through

the Denali State Park to Fairbanks. I believe there should be good fishing for rainbows and grayling, and even a slight chance of a King Salmon but I won't hold my breath. From there I will probably start heading southeast, hopefully picking up a few brook trout on the way to Nova Scotia.

## Burrum Heads May-June 2022

Ian

I arrived mid-May for my annual winter escape to sunny Queensland to find a very muddy Burrum River and rain or showers almost every day for the first two weeks. I've been here 6 weeks now, the river is almost clear and the weather is back to its beautiful winter's best. The river runs west to east past the caravan park so we get beautiful sunrises and sunsets.



I fish most days with my friend Neil in his boat. Our first challenge was to keep our yabbies (NSW = nippers) alive. Normally we keep them in river water which we change regularly. There was so much fresh in the river in May that yabbies would die after about an hour in a bucket of river water. The fresh extended more than 4km out to sea. We tried putting them between sheets of wet newspaper overnight but they died, although still firm enough to use each day. A local suggested leaving them dry in the strainer bucket, putting a freezer brick underneath them in

another bucket. This method works well, with yabbies alive and firm for 3-4 days. Changing freezer bricks is a lot easier than carrying buckets of river water.

The next challenge was the muddy water. We started fishing when the river was still quite dirty, especially on the runout tide. We had some initial success with whiting, our usual target, but it was a few weeks before the swirls of muddy water lessened and our catches were more like normal. Many others in our caravan park looked at the dirty water and didn't go fishing. The comment "there's no fish in the river" was heard often but we were having regular fish dinners.

A challenge every year is stingrays. We fish shallow water and dropoffs looking for whiting, so stingrays are often caught. We make a game of it by counting each stingray as a tennis game. My friend Neil "won" the French Open 7-5, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 and leads Wimbledon 6-1, 6-4, 2-0. That's about 60 from 22 days of fishing.

A frequent catch this year is sicklefish. Last year we didn't catch any but this year it's 12 so far.

They're quite tasty and we've eaten them baked, in fish pie and in Thai fish cakes. There's always people in the park who don't go fishing and are happy to receive a fresh sicklefish or other fish.



A big talking point this year has been the lorikeets. It's 4 or 5 years since they've been here in numbers. This year was the biggest flock I've seen in the 15 years I've been coming here and apparently they arrived last November. They would assemble about 4:30 pm each day and start to occupy all the trees around the caravan park. By 5pm several

trees were so overloaded that birds would take off and swoop in large circles, leaving droppings everywhere and causing the birds in the other trees to do the same. This would be repeated until just after dark and even after dark if a hawk or owl or a loud noise frightened them. The noise was measured at 77 decibels one evening. By coincidence or by design, almost all the lorikeets left on the shortest day for parts unknown, apparently to breed up to provide next year's entertainment.



About 4 years ago the old wooden cleaning tables on the river side of the park were removed and not replaced. The solution was ironing boards. They are a convenient height and easily cleaned.

I'm heading off soon for a shower before happy hour on the river's edge to watch another sunset. I'm really looking forward to returning to Canberra in mid-July to get some cool weather. Not!



# JQ and Bill on Trinity Inlet Cairns

## Bill

Glenys and I headed north in June to research some of her ancestors in Far North Queensland. Opportunity was taken to get out fishing with JQ – Eli wimped out complaining about midgies, his loss!

This was to be a totally fly day. JQ has these rather magic weed guards that let you cast over timber with great confidence the fly will bounce over the log without getting snagged. He was also the perfect gillie, not picking up the rod till quite late in



the day and instead tutoring the saltwater novice. Bill was on the board within four casts with this quite nice flathead ... didn't realise they inhabit so far north.

Next within very few more casts was a 'cod' ... only small but huge hit, then bend themselves and don't really put up a fight.

The diversity of species is amazing – and with the clear water we could see so many of them. We had barracuda chase our flies (thankfully not taking them), GTs making themselves known and one queenie on for just a moment. Unfortunately while we spotted a number of good size barramundi (pressing one metre?), none were enticed by our flies.

Here Jason has a fingermark



and a mangrove jack.



The most fun (and prolific) was a purple patch of archer fish. They are aggressive, not afraid of chasing the fly all the way to the boat and so cute.

It was a great day out, until Bill managed to stumble overboard. Quickly brought aboard lest he become lunch for one of these.

JQ's generosity in hosting this, and all the instruction, was much appreciated.





# Post Casts – June

Jason M

G'Day anglers, this month has seen quite a few more hours clocked up in Yellowbelly, and a few extra in a tinnie. Not too much to report in catches, but a few miles and casts occurring. After a quick trip to Monduran before my 1 Week SIPS permit ran out at the end of May (& a couple of hours at Awoonga with my fly rod), I did a 25nm dash from The Narrows to Hummocky Island. Mackerel and tuna were in small numbers; we started with lures too big & by the time we found them the first fuel tank told us it was time to head back with just a morwong and sweetlip we caught earlier at lunch.



We returned up the Narrows the next day. No legal mud crabs, but a nice little grunter landed before we headed back. Trolled the shallow mud banks at high tide, and my father got a 77cm flathead (probably a dusky, I forgot to check). The Killalure River Rat and Flatz Rat lures from Adaminaby have been performing well. They also accounted for a few more baby cod in the

Calliope River, where also we found a school of juvenile Yellowtail Barracuda on a rocky bend happy to chomp a lure.

With fuel estimates in from these trips, and a better feel for the local waters, it was then off for two nights under Cape Capricorn at Yellowpatch (a sandy dune that runs down to the sheltered creek). A limited weather window existed before the next leg of my journey north, which unfortunately



aligned with the full moon and early/late high tides, so fishing was poor but it was a good adventure.

We did spot a sea snake and a dugong on the way out from Gladstone, but not much else. Even Hummocky Island was quiet on the middle day. We did get one small trevally, and I did have a brief bump on a jig I cast into the rocks under the lighthouse, but tides (and swell) were wrong for the Spanish Mackerel, and no surface action was seen. Opting to return north to the Narrows, it was a 75-80 nautical mile trip in a 16 foot 50 year old half cab (so yes, much of the time was motoring amongst the 1-2m swell). I did get adept at spotlighting mozzies in the tent though, I must have nabbed at least thirty throughout the second night which was much stiller and warmer than the first so harder to hide in the sleeping bag from them.

Boyne River fishing yesterday was similar, with my Flatz Rat getting another young cod, and a Terminator 2 a small trevally but the fishing at anchor and around us was pretty quiet.

Only a few lures lost so far, and no real surface bite yet, so will try Gatacombe Head tomorrow on the rising tide. Only a few more days, and then it's off to North Queensland with Yellowbelly for some more adventures.

Maybe South Molle Island or Whitsunday

Island next week on my spare day if the weather is nice.....



## 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.

### [DPI Anglers Access Website](#)

What will evolve into a useful information resource when researching new water.

### [Trout Cod in the Region](#)

Keep your eye out for this (protected) native icon

## Changes to NSW Fishing Regs - flathead and rock lobster

Don't get caught not knowing the rules.

## 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.

[Jun newsletter](#) has arrived and notified on our News Blog. Key points not covered by Burley Line:

- Advanced trout stocked in Snowy Lakes
- Murray Crayfish season now open
- After the Federal election...
- Recreational Fishing and Camping Facilities Program
- Maccas in the Georges River

- NSW CFA May Quarterly General Meeting
- The next quarterly general meeting and the AGM of the NSW CFA will be on Saturday 20 August at 10.00 am via Zoom

### 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](#).

May Newsletter has arrived and notified on our News Blog. Mainly saltwater except reference to DPI's survey of recreational fishing in NSW 2019/20 report .... a bit old news?

### 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).

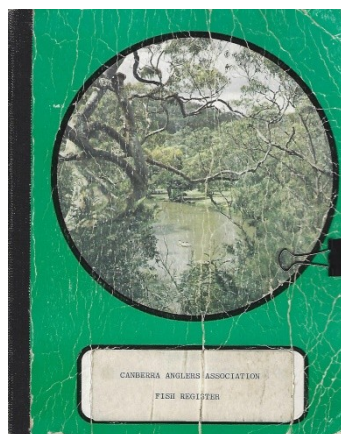
## Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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. <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 are to be confirmed as part of their wider program but there are also saltwater events across the state including Burrill Lake in September <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?
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
Bill	Rainbow	27cm – only one I measured	Fly	Goodradigbee River, 1 Apr
Am still awaiting more reports from our April trip. I know there were many more and bigger than mine! I hear tell of a 40cm caught by Rod on lure				
Owen	Rainbow	30 and 32cm	Fly	Goobragandra River (Tumut trip), 8 May
Bill	Rainbow	30 and 34cm	Fly	Goobragandra River (Tumut trip), 8 May
Peter	Rainbow	ten with best at 30cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles, Cotter River 15 May
Bill	Rainbow	two with best at 25cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles, Cotter River 15 May
Jaime	Rainbow	four with best at 25cm	Fly	Condor Creek, 15 May

## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.canberra-anglers.asn.au](http://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au)

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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](http://www.capitalflycasting.com)