

THE BURLEY LINE



Lyall's Tongariro River Rainbow



From the Editor's Desk

I much appreciate Greg S' eagle eye in spotting that Victoria Fishing 'Nibbles' newsletter link wasn't working. I've fixed reference to it pending their system being restored.

Got a short note from Lyall during his trip to the 'mighty' Tongariro in New Zealand's North Island. Impressive fish is shown in our cover photo. Well done mate.

The only other fishing report is from JM on a 'sure catch' opportunity in Far North Qld during his recent long service leave travels. Maybe a place others might care to try out when up that way.

Jaime has provided a video link offering a tip on Blood Knots. I found an informative article on fly line selection.

Members please note, CAA membership fees are due at the AGM in August. A number of folk have signed back up, if you intend to do so, please come along to a club event with cash or card. Alternatively do a bank transfer – the details are [here](#), you can also use the form to update any contact changes. Members have to be financial to benefit from our public liability insurance.

In respect to club merchandise: I've recently reviewed our arrangements with the embroiderer who has provided the embroidery of the club logo on shirts (bulk purchased or byo). She is relocating mid next year but other arrangements will be made. Contact us if you'd like some of your shirts/caps/jerseys embroidered – currently \$12 each. By the way, there seemed limited interest last time a shirt purchase was suggested. If there is resurgence of interest, contact me.

As always, would appreciate any and all contributions – many thanks to those who prepared articles this month. Copy to me by 22 Oct would be appreciated.

Coming Events

Meeting: 12th October.

7:30 at Raiders. All the details will be sent via email.

Fly Tying: 26th October 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

Sat 8 Oct - Lyle Knowles Trophy competition (trout) – Cotter River between Condor Creek and Bendora Dam – don't forget to take photos with some measuring device alongside and report to Secretary

CAA Casting to the Public Days

Claude, with a little early assistance from Bill

Was quite windy on the first day with the odd dunking of spray from the Captain Cook jet but there was a suprisingly good turnout of new starters – converting into a pleasing number recruited.



One surprise visitor down from Cairns – Jason Q's new daughter taking up the fly at the tender age of 8 months



The wind had not let up for the second day, so the decision was made to move away from the lake and into the lee of the Questacon building. Seemed like even more people turned up this time with some 8 signing up for membership – more than any had seen in recent memory.





The third and final day at Googong was a cracker with the low grey cloud giving way to sun and blue sky by 1030. Googong is looking great with a light flow of water rolling over the top of the dam. We were surprised with the numbers that turned up, including a number of new folk and even a family of five. Once again we were fortunate to have the steady and reliable support of the following club members (in no order of priority) - the Cotter family for raffles and BBQ, Ian K on the BBQ, Mark S + Lyall + Nathan for the casting instruction, Bill B + John for manning the receipt book and membership takings, general club casting guidance by Alan S + Shaun G + Bill + John R + Claude, photos John R, Lyall for early organisation and BJ for all the faffing to get the Square (which we logged \$1480 worth of sales/membership over the three Sundays...Fantastic!).



During the three weekends we were fortunate to welcome approximately three new family memberships, eight individuals and two concessions. We look forward to seeing you at the club or activities soon. Senior club members are thinking about an educational event on a river where you get to tangle with moving water and a fishing event where we can get you onto a fish.



Mark and Steve demonstrating their commitment.....Steve without the waders wins!



Lyll providing instruction to new casting enthusiasts



Nathan providing 'sage' advice



Mark instructing a whole family....he was non-stop generous with his calm advice and encouragement



Claude explaining that [Peter Kutzner at Orvis Learning Center](#) explains casting much better than him 😊



Lyll donated the major daily prize of a fly casting lesson. The winner returned about 3 raffle prizes but was not going to give up a chance to cast with Lyll.



Nathan (Boss Outdoors) issuing the major raffle prize the winner purchased many tickets 😊
Keep practising in your local parks and ponds....its a much better place than on a river when you see a fish and the mixture of tension-excitement-wind-moving water-trees gets the better of you (from my experience...you may be much better 😊). Thanks Mike K for sharing the below...



Choosing a Fly Line

I found this on the Newsletter of the Southern Fly Fishers Club. Reproduced with the kind permission of the authors and [Essential Flyfisher](#). Check out their website and the associated blog – very informative. The full article is about 3 and a half pages and includes a lot of detail about specific brands of lines and a discussion on anticipated costs. I'll put the full article in our 'Tips' blog meanwhile here is the initial discussion.

Bob Young and Mike Stevens

Fly lines tend to be forgotten when it comes to putting together a fly fishing outfit. Many are eager to get their hands on the latest and greatest when it comes to fly rods, often driven by the glowing descriptions – either by the rod manufacturers, a retailer or a sponsored guide or user. Make no mistake though, most rods are very good and it is great to get your hands on a new one.

Line selection is something that, chosen correctly, will make more difference than any other part of your kit. This decision will have a profound impact on your fishing. In some cases, we do end up with an appropriate line for the job but there are many occasions when anglers are fishing with the wrong line.

Take some time to think about this. It is the mass of the flyline that give you the ability to tow the fly. A light line – say a 2 weight, will not tow a 2/0 Clouser with heavy brass eyes.

However, a 10 weight line will tow it with ease. But if you used a 10 weight line fishing for trout you would spook every fish in the lake as the big heavy line lands.

Maybe you should start by selecting a fly line based on the size and weight of fly or flies, target species of fish and how you fish them. And be honest about your casting ability Let's consider the characteristics of a fly line which affect its performance and how these characteristics relate to the above line selection criteria.

Fly Line Tapers: There are two basic common taper types - Double Taper (DT) line which has a taper at each end connected by uniformly thick line between these tapers. Some anglers like double taper lines because when one end wears out the line can be reversed and continue to be used. Weight Forward (WF) lines are made up of a thicker "head" at the front(fly) end and a thin running line at the back (reel) end. The "head" comprises a front taper, belly and rear taper. Each of these head components plays a role in how the line behaves e.g. long front tapers with small tip diameters dissipate energy and result in gentle fly presentations (good for small dry flies) whereas short front tapers and/or large tip diameters result in aggressive line turnover which is good for heavy/bulky flies and casting into the wind.

If an angler is using an aggressive front taper but needs a more delicate presentation a simple adjustment is to use a longer tapered leader which has the effect of extending the front taper. The belly of the line is where the greatest mass is and the larger the belly the more energy can be stored. This is good for longer line carries when casting further. Longer rear tapers help smooth loop unrolls when casting. In addition, long heads facilitate roll casting and mending at distance but require more casting skill for longer line carries whereas shorter heads are useful when casts must be made quickly to faster moving fish. A useful rule of thumb is that the

maximum head length of a line should be about the length of line the angler can comfortably carry as any more will be wasted. Generally, head lengths vary from about 35ft to 60ft with a huge variety of tapers and designs. These variations are all designed to suit different situations.

Fly Line Weight: Fly lines are classified by weight according to a standard established by the American Fly Fishing Trade Association (AFFTA) and refer to the weight of the first 30 feet of the line (excluding the tip) e.g. if the first 30 feet of a line weighs 160 grains (regardless of whether it is a floating, sinking, sink-tip, DT or WF line) it is classified as a 6 weight line e.g. DT6F, WF6S or WF6F/S. This information is useful when choosing a rod to cast this line. A good starting point would be to look at a 6 weight rod for this although if the caster has sufficient skill almost any fly rod can be made to cast any line. It is worth noting that some fly lines are deliberately made heavier than their AFFTA rating to facilitate rod loading at shorter fishing lengths and turnover of heavier flies e.g. Scientific Anglers MPX (half size heavier) and RIO Grand (full size heavier). Heavier lines are usually needed for successful turnover of heavy/bulky flies and are useful when casting in strong winds - they are not blown around as easily. Some manufacturers' sinking lines are also overweighted by two lines, so make sure you read the box. And remember, the line is only rated to 30 feet, so if you have a line with a long head and 50 feet of line out it is probably equivalent to a line 3 weights heavier. So, a 6 weight with long head could easily be an 8-9 weight at 50 feet.

Fly Line Coatings and Density: The fly line coating used will determine whether the line is a floating line, a sinking line or a floating line with a sink-tip as these coatings are used to change the density of a line. Whether a line floats or sinks is important to make sure that the fly is presented at the depth in the water column where the target species will be found.

For example, a floating line would be used to target fish which are found feeding at or within a few feet of the surface whereas a sinking line will be used to get down to fish below these levels. Sinking lines can be obtained with various sink rates to get the fly down a little (intermediate lines) or a lot (very fast sinkers). Note that sinking lines come in three types - "standard" sinking lines which sink in a U shape where the whole line supposedly sinks evenly, then parabolic, where the belly of the line sinks quicker than the tip (and fly), or "uniform" sinking lines which sink in a relatively straight line (the fly sinks the furthest). The uniform lines can give better take detection. Sinking lines can be easier to cast than floating lines as they have smaller diameters (for a given line weight) but are more difficult to get out of the water to commence a new cast. Most of the line needs to be retrieved before false casting.

The line coating will also impact on line flexibility with temperature which is important when considering whether your target species will be found in the mountains or at the equator at sea level. The coating materials also have varying degrees of resistance to abrasion with the stiffer coatings (tropical lines) generally being more resistant to wear. If you use a tropical line in colder climates "memory" (coiling) will be an issue. Likewise, a cold water line used in the tropics will be very limp and won't shoot through the guides.

Fly Line Texture: Lines are available today with or without textured coating. The purpose of texturing is to reduce the line's contact area with the rod guides thereby reducing friction and improving shootability. They can be noisy though and this annoys some. Bruce Richards, fly line designer for over 30 years for Scientific Anglers, says textured lines never need cleaning and will

always remain more slippery than a smooth line. Some manufacturers have different textures in different places throughout the length of the line.

Fly Line Core: The breaking strength of the line (relevant for the size and aggression of the target species) and also the amount of line stretch (relevant for detecting unseen takes and also for avoiding break-offs when setting hooks in large, fast-moving fish). The core strength can be anywhere from 15 to 100 pounds. For trout fishing it is typically 20 or 30 pounds. RIO have lines called 'InTouch' that have very low stretch and Airflo have a popular sinking line called 'Sixth Sense'.

Fly Line Colour: Lines are available in a wide range of colours and there is a division of opinion as to whether bright lines spook fish. There is no doubt that it is easier for the angler to see where their cast is going with a brighter line. Line flash is probably more significant than colour, although if you go to New Zealand, guides will probably not talk to you if you have a bright line. Interestingly, the more you pay the more colours there are in a line. Cheap lines are usually one colour, whilst the expensive lines are 2-3 colours with the change in colour usually around the end of the head.

... [full version in the 'Tips Blog'](#)

Easy Way to do a Blood Knot

Jaime

I think I am right saying this is exactly a blood knot. At the end tags go in the same direction which is different to the regular way I normally do it but I don't think that it's a big issue. I think this simple trick at the beginning makes all easier!

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CiFbkfzjWZI/?igshid=MTA0ZTI1NzA=>

I don't use blood knots much, almost exclusively surgeons (but I like triple surgeons), just because they are easier. But now with this new method I will use more blood knots. I normally prefer blood knots when building a leader for euro-nymphing, mostly to tie the sighter. Reason is that I like to leave tags in both sides of my sighter, about 2cm long. They stick out nicely so the sighter is more visible, normally those tags stick out out of the water. So when you use a blood knot those tags are perfectly perpendicular to the line, so when the line is laying on the water the tags really stick up, and not diagonally which can happen with a surgeon knot.

(Editor – I'll put this into our 'Tips' blog)

Barramundi Stocked Dam - FNQ

Jason M dropped by this barra dam with some success. The full report is in [our "Places" blog](#).

Jason M

Wonga Go Dam Fishing?

Having spotted this location on a television show, and with recommendations from JQ, I thought it would be a good spot to take the family for a fish. After initially convincing my young angler to go there, he changed his mind.

With a timely repeat of the episode on television two days before we left, once my wife and kids went home, I saw a quick change to pop to this fish farm for a quick fish before driving back.

I was rewarded by spotting two people trying fly fishing for barra when I arrived, and was able to join in. I didn't need to sanitise my fly line and rod as it had been a while since using it, and I suspect once they saw I was half competent, they were happy to leave me fishing the pond/dam whilst they put the new customers who were spin fishing on the other one.

My first half hour saw me hook a few fish, but pulled the hooks on a couple (alas, no cameras nearby). My father hooked up finally on a soft plastic, which they thought was a mangrove jack initially but resolved to be an 80cm+ barra (they also don't have brag mats on hand). Alas, his fish came from the pond that had to be returned so the length was just an estimate.

The next half hour saw a couple more taps, and a couple more fish hooked, the last one I lost by lifting my rod too high. Recalling we had paid for three 1-hour sessions, and only two of us were fishing, we were allowed to do 90 minutes each and at about 88 minutes I hooked up. Having eased my drag after losing the previous fish, I managed to bring this one in, with the barra behaving like a brown trout with a couple of runs from my feet.



Pond oxygenator operating in the background

Where were the fish? Some were on the edges, but we found mostly they struck from the middle. I fished near the paddlewheels, which oxygenated the water and have a 3m exclusion zone around them. I saw what I'm sure was one of the albino fish near the froth (but it was the only unhooked fish I could see in the murky water). The outflow at the other end was also a hotspot, with more small fish there and my father spotted some bigger ones near his outflow. Around 3m from the outflow I found to be productive.

I had hits and hookups both on a weedless barra lure I found (I think JQ took us through this one), a clouser they suggested I use, and a more bulky saltwater fly I recall tying one evening with Geoff D. It was great both to use these two flies we tied on CAA fly tying nights, but also to practice some barra fishing in an environment where you at least had the confidence you were casting to water with barramundi in it, allowing to concentrate on casting and retrieves rather than trying to find fish.

With the session ending, it was time to enjoy some fish and chips whilst my catch chilled down. I opted to keep my catch (\$16/kg, and coming in at 4kg) but you can also purchase frozen fish (which would be gutted) for a similar price, or fish fillets, which would travel better. Foam eskies are sold there, but they provide ice for free in the plastic bags with your fish which can get you back to your accommodation or cooler if like us you left them in Cairns. Both the fish n chips and the catch were tasty.

<https://www.hookabarra.com/our-farm/>

Avoiding Casting Pain

This came in from Claude – has/will be put in our [Tips blog](#) also.

Claude enjoys listening to podcasts, particularly anything to do with fly fishing. A favourite is the Orvis Fly Fishing Podcast with Tom Rosenbauer. The latest podcast is quite relevant for some of us who try a bit 'too much' to cast distance or just have a really big day after a long break and strain our elbows/wrists. The podcast is 'Avoiding casting pains with Dr. Jason Smith'. It talks about exercise to prepare for the fishing season (no needs for weights or going to the gym and spending time in front of the mirror). The main cause, as we would guess, is technique – a statistic Dr Smith mentioned is that we spend 96% of our money on gear and 4% on tuition (if you're lucky). So if you want to avoid injury do your exercises/stretching, focus on style/technique and ideally see casting instructor to make sure your style is correct and efficient.

Link:

Podcast: <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/podcasts/general-fly-fishing/1731-avoiding-casting-pains-with-dr-jason-smith>

Casting Learning Centre: <https://howtoflyfish.orvis.com/video-lessons/fly-casting>

Rating out of 5 (by recommender): Entertaining [3] / Educational [5] / Locality Relevance [N/A] / Length [~40 min] / Quality [4]

In my in-box

Got this from Lyall – see also the cover photo.



May I respond to your question about the Tongariro with two photos of the same fish? At 60 cm measured and photographed, this is the biggest fish caught so far. The three of us are only using two handed rods swinging streamers which markedly reduces the likelihood of a catch but Spey casting is why we are here.

NZ Fish and Game has requested anglers harvest big fish on the Tongariro to reduce pressure on younger fish so we have eaten trout every night on the trip so far including the 60.

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.

Volunteers Sought

A reminder that Shaun is still looking for help with FFA competitions.

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.

Kosciuszko Brumbies

Snowy Monaro MP Nichole Overall commenting on the poor state of Kosciuszko brumby management.

Next Generation Fishing YouTuber?

Junior trout angler shows his stuff.

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.

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](#).

September issue was reported on our [News Blog here](#). Quite a few items relevant to us:

- Coral trout off the coast of Sydney
- Scary photo ... Botany Bay Boat Ramp disasters continue
- What's happening on Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council and NSW Rec Fishing Trusts?
- Tips for pyramid style yabby traps
- Aboriginal cultural fishing inquiry
- How much do recreational fishers contribute to the NSW economy? Help University of Wollongong with this study

Fisheries Victoria News – 'Nibbles'

These are in hiatus for the moment while they identify a new distribution system. 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 are to be confirmed as part of their wider program but there are also saltwater events across the state including Greenwell Point in January. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids

A number of our members are comp fishers. There is also care needed to avoid some waters during the competition. The proposed program will be recorded here:

3	19/20 November 2022 :-	Mitta Mitta River competition
4	25/26 February 2023 :-	Rocky Valley Reservoir boat loch style competition - "President's Shield"
5	22/23 April 2023 :-	Ovens/Kiewa Two Rivers competition
6	20/21 May 2023	Goulburn River competition

Tasmania.

Round #	Date	Venue
2	22/23 rd October 2022	Mersey R & Four Springs
3	12/13 th November 2022	Woods/Penstock Lagoon
4	21/22 nd January 2023	Tyenna River
5	4/5 th March 2023	Mersey R & Meander R
6	1/2 nd April 2023	Little Pine & Pine Tier Lagoons

NSW/ACT

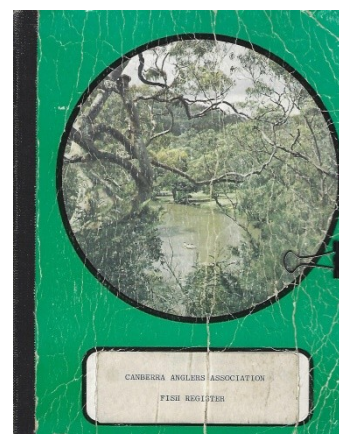
Round	Date	Venue
1	8/9 th October 2022	Loch Style Snowy Mtns
2	5/6 th Nov 2022	Loch Style Snowy Mtns
3 Nationals	7-10 th Dec 2022	Snowy Mountains
4	2/3 April 2023	Tumut River
5	May 2023	Bathurst

Victoria

Round	Date	Venue
2	22/23 October 2022 :-	Wendouree lake boat loch style competition - "Vern Barby Trophy" and the "State of Origin"

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

Start telling me folks, and putting into the Green Book.

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.

**BOSS
OUTDOOR**



Capital Fly Casting

www.capitalflycasting.com