# THE BURLEY LINE



## Al on the Hinemaia (NZ) - 4lb

(see story inside)



## From the Editor's Desk

Don't forget our end of year barbeque – Wednesday 14 Dec, starting around 6PM at Lotus Bay. Our big raffle is going cash-less. Come with your credit/debit card or buy tickets via EFT before the day.

With the cancellation of Stefan's Brogo trip I was concerned this issue could be a bit thin, but many thanks to Roger, AI and Stuart, there's plenty to read here.

I found Roger in Toronto awaiting a flight to UK. His bike is with a shipping agent about to follow him over the Atlantic. His plan is to spend the winter in the UK and get some work prior to hitting the road again in summer to ride and fish around Europe. He assures me he has been able to stay safely upright – which can't be said by yours truly. I've been privileged to get another chapter in his journey log. Roger clarifies this is Part 2 (still up in Alaska continuing on from his first part). Part 3 would probably be returning to BC, and part 4 could be the east coast. All this before we start on his European tour. I'll assemble this into a single document for our 'Places' blog in due course.

Some of us missed Al's talk on his recent trip back across the ditch to fish smaller streams in the Taupo basin – the results almost tempt those committed Southlanders to have a session back north again.

Stuart has been up North again – the fish there seem to be so big!!! Eli's first major trophy is further evidence.

While it is a ways till February, the summer season will be busy, so I'm starting the promotion for the Jindabyne trip.

I believe reports from our Saltwater Event and a recent trip to NZ by our President are in preparation – we may see these grace a special Christmas edition, or await January issue. Any and all submissions from members will be appreciated anytime.

## **Coming Events**

Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> December. Our annual bbg by the lake – more details via email.

> Fly Tying None for December or January.

## Next Events

Sat 14 Jan – Locally chasing natives and carp – led by Claude.

Fri-Sun 10-12 Feb – Jindabyne for all manner of trout fishing – led by Bill.



## More of Roger's Travels – Part 2

## Roger

Lyall

Line.

If memory serves me correctly, I was fishing for King Salmon at Kasilof on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska at the time of my last report. Shortly after my report, the rivers in the Kenai peninsula were closed for King salmon. Unfortunately, I hadn't managed to catch one although I did have a definite grab. The technique I was using was swinging a fly with a Spey rod. Swinging is a lot of

fun but is not always the most productive way to catch anadromous fish fish like Salmon and Steelhead. I only saw one person hook a King Salmon while swinging and heard reports of 2 fish that were caught with this method in the 2 weeks I was there. Most of the King Salmon caught while I was there, were caught by people lining for Sockeye salmon. The technique of lining (or flossing) involves casting a leader, with or without a weighted fly (sometimes just a weighted hook) upstream, letting it swing down and sharply flicking it out of the water. The idea is to get the leader to pass through the mouth of a fish (which you may or may not be able to see) and hook the fish on the outside of the mouth. In the case of Sockeye salmon it is probably fair enough because Sockey do not respond to flies or lures (or even bait) once they enter a river to spawn. King salmon on the other hand do so these methods can be used to catch them.

After the King Salmon closure I decided to head north to the Denali area. The predominant fish in this are grayling and I had my first attempt at them in a stream at the western end of the Denali Highway near a place called Cantwell. Although there were no fish rising, I tied on dry fly and sure enough after a few casts I caught the first of a few grayling, only about 10 to 12 inches long but still fun to catch.





I then rode to the eastern end of the Denali Highway and went fishing in a stretch of river between the Tangle Lakes. As I was donning my waders I met a guy who had been fishing there for years and he took me to a spot on the river and told me to fish downstream from there. He also gave me a weighted nymph which he said had been working well. I caught 20 grayling in around an hour. Again they were only 10 to 12 inches but were a lot of fun to catch. The technique I was using was swinging the nymph with a micro skagit line from OPST. The grayling were really thick and you could stand in the same spot for around 6 casts and catch a fish with every cast. If you didn't catch one on a cast you just took a couple of steps downstream and repeated the process.





My next stop was a place called Valdez near Prince William Sound which was the site of the infamous Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989 when an oil tanker ran aground and spilled 10.8 million gallons of oil into the sound. Luckily the area has mostly recovered. Across the harbour from Valdez, there is a hatchery which raises pink and silver salmon and releases them in an adjacent river. The salmon return to this river to spawn which in the case of Pink Salmon is every 2nd year,



2022 being a return year. The salmon return in numbers great enough to support a local fishing industry and there can be up to 100 purse seine boats fishing in the harbour when they are around. It is also a bonanza for the local seal and sea lion population and for recreational anglers who line the rock wall adjacent to the hatchery. I had heard that the fish were only 3 to 4 pounds so I only took a 6# down to fish to them. I realised my mistake when I hooked my first fish. I played it for 20 minutes and had it to the leader 5 times before it got off. I did manage to

land the next one but the following day I brought an 8# which handled them a lot better. Most of the recreational anglers use lures, sometimes with a jagging motion and were catching a lot more than I did on a fly but I still had fun.





After Valdez I returned to British Columbia to have another crack at Steelhead which I might cover in a subsequent report

# Hinemaia North Island (Taupo Region) August 2022

## AI McH

I was finally able to fly back to New Zealand and the Taupo region for our annual trip organised by my friend Charles. For this particular trip, and I have missed a few, it was the first in which we have shifted from us, the kids being the younger generation, to suddenly being the 'oldies'. This was quite a culture shock, especially as it appeared we still had to do all the cooking and knot tying, so nothing had changed there.



You may recall a talk I gave where I discussed the regularity and importance of flooding to the catchment. You can imagine our concern when we were confronted with a flood in the Tongariro River of a peak of 615 cubes per second only a few days before our arrival. Fortunately you can see from the graphs how quickly it dropped.



We spent the first day on the Tauranga Taupo (TT) and actually whilst high was very fishable albeit it was unsafe to take the kids over some crossings. This is a fantastic river and we came here first as it is renowned for fishing well immediately after a flood. In our experience, this late in the season (August) the TT often produces 'spent' trout and we assessed this as our best day to fish the TT. It turns out, this decision was sound but for other reasons. That evening it rained over night, and that was enough to flood the TT, limiting us to the Hinemaia, and briefly the Tongariro.



Marcel and son Ethan (8) inspecting a high, but just fishable, Tauranga Taupo River

There is always a new fandangled trend someone, usually Marcel, brings on the annual trip. This year was the Dorsey Indicator. It involves a orthodontic band, some pre-made poly yarn indicators, and can be applied quickly and moved easily. I encourage you to google the Dorsey indicator.

In terms of gear, well this was the year of the AAA split shot, often as many as 3 or more. That is 2.g of lead. A typical rig was 16lb mono, stepped down to 9-12, lead on a knot, 9-12 for a foot to an unweighted globug, with another foot to another fly, usually a small nymph. In previously years we really put thought into our fly choice and were often comparing. I would say it was pretty evident this year that globugs were just as effective as ever, and small naturals were also effective with little discrimination. One real benefit of lots of lead is you can fish two 'catching' flies as opposed to have to worry about whether you should have a globug or natural under you heavy nymph. We mainly fished 9'0 6 weights, Charles cracked out his 8 through no choice of his own, and the boys had 8'6 6 weights.

So whilst we did spend an afternoon on the Tongariro and picked up a few fish, it was running very high and there were limited opportunities for the boys, unless one was interested in scratching through the braids, which we did find some people doing! As such we were largely

confined to the Hinemaia. You may recall from my first presentation that the Hinemaia is quite unique as it is a spring fed river, with a hydro dam. This combination means the flows are very controllable, it is usually the last river to 'blow out' but can be very challenging to fish with high flows.

#### Al on the Hinemaia

We were staying in AirBNB style accommodation in Hatepe, the small village at the mouth of the Hinemaia, which about half way between Taupo and Turangi. Whilst you can walk to the river from our place which was here, that part of the river is not fished much, with the majority of the pools being upstream of the





bridge. The house was small but comfortably sleeps 6-7. Firewood is included. It even had a washing machine and dryer! The largest caught was probably just over 4lb, weighed by a random gentlemen who landed it for me. It was a very coloured jack (see cover photo). The majority of the bigger trout were between 3.5 and 4lb, and I don't think we would have caught more than two trout under 3lb for the trip.





We did take some fresh fish for the smoker. One of of the best bits about keeping a trout is the autopsy. One trout had 4 fertilised eggs which looked amazingly like a veiled otter egg with the blood dot. Unfortunately one fish had a number of pieces of white plastic, sort of a hard bag which demonstrates their lack of discretion, albeit they may have looked like white bait fish. There were also a number of small caddis.

On the Saturday we got up 'early' to get the best spots on the Hine. By the time we got here, there was already a couple with deckchairs, a chilly bin and a 6ft landing net! Cheeky we thought! And yet a few hours later, when we were walking past they offered us their spot specifically to make sure we had somewhere the boys could fish comfortably. There were a few less experienced anglers were offered advice to over the course of the day, and I would say my main observation is that they didn't know about 'Triple A days', had too short indicators, and weren't aggressively mending at the start of a drift.



Marcel helping son Jack (10) land a trout on the Hinemaia. Summer the dog, not helping.

The kids had a great time. This was the first time the two of them were really independent from a fishing perspective, able to cast catch and land without assistance. You know between the group we were catching a few when we happily letting an 8

year old land the fish.

Ethan (8) playing a trout solo on the Hinemaia.

This is a great way to spend a few days fishing, and it is very affordable once one has made it to NZ. From left to right – me, Charles, Clay the spaniel, Ethan, Jack, Summer the dug, Marcel and thanks again to Jamie Cobel (professional photographer) who took so many photos!

## Alan's Club Trip to Alpine 25-27 Nov

## Alan S

I was looking on the weekend with trepidation. The spring that I'd anticipated in June when the date was set just didn't come, winter, then false starts, then more winter. Come on I told myself, we are supposed to be fishermen, we've done the frosty mornings, it was better than that! And only wimps postpone because of a bit of wind. The data came so off I went.

In the end it was an utterly florious weekend, good to be alive weather.

The rising fish on the lake on Friday night were a feint memory on Saturday night. I drove up to to Thredbo River Friday afternoon, and it was flowing high and hard, but cold from the snow melt. Not a rising fish in that river.



Saturday morning saw me walking the Thredbo River again. Plenty of wild creatures but not trout, and just a handful of fishermen. I used that old fisherman magic, the ritutal egg and bacon roll. Didn't work.

Sunday I checked out one of the unnamed alpine creeks in a farmer's paddock. Too many cows and calves, so I left. The unnamed creek in the photograph was a different matter. I caught fish on the 3<sup>rd</sup> cast, 25 feet from the car.

It was well and truly worth it for a weekend of sun on the water and fresh spring air.

The alpine creek, with the first flowers in the meadow. Georgeous

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## 23 Nov Fly Tying – Saltwater Pink Thing

A dedicated band of flytyers and audience sat in with Lyall demonstrating his new found live video production skills as well as how to this fly. All the guff is available at <u>http://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/fly-tying-23-nov-2022-saltwater-pink-thing/</u> Results are on the web plus Lyall's production below.

Lyall, and his mate Peter, spoke about the Fly Fishers International Fly Tying Group and the informative video demonstrations they provide. The website has a lot of information <u>https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Get-Involved/Fly-Tying-Group</u>



## Another variant from Jayden



And BJ



# Jindy trip 10-12 Feb 2023

#### Bill

While the trip is not until Feb, with people getting busy further into the holiday season, I'm starting the promotion now. You can reserve your bed by paying anytime from now until the final cutoff of 1 Feb. There are only 14 beds and this trip has always been well supported.

A report from the trip earlier this year is in the March Burley Line. The accommodation is in the CSIRO Ski Lodge in East Jindabyne. 7 rooms each with two full sized beds. Three proper sized bathrooms are shared. Large lounge and kitchen each upstairs and downstairs. Parking is a little tight so perhaps room for just one boat and I suggest car sharing if possible. All forms of fishing is available, including the lake perhaps a hundred steps down from the lodge.

The cost is a very modest \$32 per person/per night (so \$64 for the two night CAA trip). It needs to be paid into the CAA account (BSB 032727, A/C Number 233821). Please ensure your name is included in the transfer comment information.

The actual booking process is a bit complicated (designed around a ski lodge member-only secure web login). Changes after 1 Feb will be tricky. The quote of \$32 is pretty reliable as it has come from the reservation member, but we won't know for sure until the automated booking system sends me the bill. Adjustment payment may be required.

This'll be an excellent trip I'm sure.

## In my in-box

The Committee received an advertisement for a new book intended for fly fishers *Howard Joseland: An angler in print, 1887-1930.* 

The Secretary,

For more than a decade, Peter Gibson and I have been searching out angling-themed writing by or involving the renowned fly fishing pioneer, architect, artist, and author, Howard Joseland, published in the newspapers, magazines, and journals of his era. The result is a new book: Howard Joseland: An angler in print 1887-1930.

The book is a collection of more than 260 texts—feature articles, letters, 39 of his columns from the Australian Sporting and Dramatic News, significant events in Joseland's life, and so on. Many texts relate directly to trout fishing on the Monaro, including Joseland's reports of his first two trips to Dalgety in 1901, descriptions of the rivers, accounts of his adventures on Monaro streams, mentions of notable Monaro anglers, and so on. The numerous illustrations include watercolours by Joseland, held in private collections.

The book is only available in this special leatherbound and slip-cased edition of 200 copies.

Please forward this email to your members for their consideration.

Best wishes,

Jim Findlay

joselandsociety@gmail.com

(Ed: Peter Gibson is President of NSWCFA)

**Blackwater events threaten native fish** This doesn't seem to happen in the headwaters where we're generally fishing, but lower in the system blackwater events are a big issue

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-21/native-fish-suffocating-murray-darling-basin-floodwaters/101665668

It seems the Tasmanians are having an argument whether native species might legitimately be culled to improve the habitat for an economically valuable introduced species. https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-03/swans-culled-in-tas-central-highlands-over-trout-habitat/101608088

Phil Burton is on the Executive of the Council of Freshwater Angler and member of Sydney Fly Rodders. Found this on my Instagram feed – estimate of 15lb may well be generous but a beautiful looking fish for something of this weight.



Meanwhile Peter was fishing Lake Tuggers looking (and getting) reddies. A larger weight surprised him when he landed this 60cm Murray Cod. Since it was out of season it was returned promptly unharmed. Imagine his surprise when the very next night an even bigger monster hooked up. This one escaped at his feet unmeasured but estimated at.

CAA doesn't encourage the targeting of out of season species, but Peter's #10 woolly bugger would not be seen as a specific to cod fly. Take care to gently return out of season fish.



From Jayden



Caught it at Kiandra on Saturday. Dry fly, 36cm and just over 1lb

Recall that back in <u>April</u> JQ's son Eli graced our front cover with a 75cm barra – his first? Seems we weren't the only ones impressed as Eli has won a trophy for his efforts:



## A Message from Stuart

Stuart sent his apologies for not making it to John's Saltwater Event. With that, he sent some photos from a recent trip north to Tinaroo Dam and Hinchinbrook Passage, perhaps to reassure us of his saltwater skills. :-)



Burn off at Tinaroo ( no big barra yet)



Permit Hinchinbrook



Dawn Hinchinbrook

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Mangrove Jack Hinchinbrook



Clinton Isaacs with Barra



Guide poling the flats

He finished his email with "Friend and I have two more days at Tinaroo for our meter Bara. Missed 3 eats each. ??? Maybe tomorrow??"

## **Progress with Snowy Hydro 2.0 and Gaden**

## Bill

I was invited to accompany Steve Samuels to a workshop at Gaden Hatchery in relation to the grow-out facility within Snowy Hydro 2.0. Attendees included representation from Snowy Hydro and DPI Fisheries especially Mitch Elkins from Gaden. Consultants from the Wedge group who ran the workshop presented their draft findings in relation to the grow-out concept and sought discussion on the options considered, along with giving their assessment of the options within a number of criteria.

Gaden and DPI were central to Wedge's consideration due to the significant works and changes to production practice coming from reinvestment in the hatchery. This work was intended to be complete around now, but has been delayed with completion now around Sep 2023. There is much work on the visitor's centre, but most critical for the grow-out facility design are a large expansion of the production area and more significantly changes to production practice.

Gaden is currently operating with gravity fed water fresh from the Thredbo and there is constant flow through the tanks and ponds, through water treatment and then back into the river. The current system is vulnerable to water temperature and availability fluctuations due to weather and climate change. Gaden has been experimenting with small capacity heater/chiller units to adjust water temperature in a limited element of the production. The impact of this is quite substantial - I may have the exact numbers wrong so won't quote them but eggs take much longer to hatch in cold water (think the Thredbo in winter) and fish eat/grow more slowly if the water gets too hot (think the Thredbo in summer). The Gaden redevelopment takes this a stage further and moves to a recirculating acquaculture system (RAS). Here the water is filtered/conditioned and reused. The system only requires to draw water from the river to replace losses from evaporation and wastage from the cleaning process. Thus the facility's water vulnerabilities are almost eliminated. This RAS evolution offers an additional option for the grow-out facility.

The Wedge findings can't be shared until their report is finalised and reviewed by Snowy Hydro and DPI management. I'll give more advice on the grow-out design once released.



One year old Tiger trout

## A Small Puzzle – The Answer

## Lyall

Double Taper lines have the same front and rear taper with level line for the belly. Either end can be the reel end ha ha!!!

# Stuff You May Have Already Read on our <u>News</u> <u>Blog</u>

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 previous 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.

Positions are Vacant on Important Ministerial Advisory bodies

In particular the Recreational Fishing NSW Advisory Council.

**Understanding the National Carp Control Plan** 

An easy to read explanation from Anthony Heiser.

**Recreational Fishing Trust Report** 

See where our NSW fishing fees are spent.

Snowy Trout Challenge 2022-23

It is running all the way from Oct to Apr. Even if you don't participate you should keep an eye out for the tagged trout.

Lost Fishing Gear and Pollution

Jaime found a CSIRO study into the impact on fish of lost fishing tackle.

Successful catch and release of the mighty Murray cod

Appropriate that Peter found this, includes a video.

# Stuff You May Have Already Read on our Facebook Page



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 placemarker.

A Simple Mayfly dry pattern

Claude found this prior to his NZ trip – looks simple enough for even my skills.

Flooding in our dam tailraces

This is a highly dynamic situation – disastrous downstream – but you can check current situation of dam release from here.

## **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 <u>via their archive</u>. They also have a presence on <u>Facebook</u>. The <u>key correspondence</u>, a useful calendar of events and recent videos are on their website.

Don't forget you can donate to the CFA by <u>becoming a 'Foundation Member</u>' and personally support their good work. The website explains what that means – only the equivalent of \$0.50 per week.

December 2022 issue has arrived. Key items:

- Charlotte Pass Snow Resort fined for polluting Spencers Creek in Kosciuszko National Park
- Murray cod season officially underway
- Recreational Fishing Trusts Annual Report
- More foggy thinking from the BOM
- NSWCFA Interclub Fly and Lure Fishing Meet 2023

## **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 <u>archive</u>. They also have a presence on <u>Facebook</u>.

#### Fisheries Victoria News - 'Nibbles'

These are in hiatus for the moment while they identify a new distribution system. Meanwhile they have a presence on all forms of social media.

# 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
Jan 2023?	I would suggest that NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne are in hiatus while the refurbishment program is in train. However 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
Oct 2023	We can anticipate Go Fishing Day NSW version. https://gonefishingday.com.au/

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. Shaun remains in need of controllers for the Nationals 7-10 Dec:

#### Victoria

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
4	21/22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2023	Tyenna River
5	4/5 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	Mersey R & Meander R
6	1/2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2023	Little Pine & Pine Tier Lagoons

#### NSW/ACT

Round	Date	Venue
4	2/3 April 2023	Tumut River
5	May 2023	Bathurst

## **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 <u>club trophies</u> 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	,	60cm and ?83cm?	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong
Jayden		36cm and just over 1lb	(Dry) Fly	Kiandra, 26 Nov

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.a







## 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.