

THE BURLEY LINE



Claude in NZ



From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to 2023 – we all hope you had a safe and enjoyable festive season.

John's report on our December Saltwater Event here – thanks mate. Much appreciate a report from Lyall about control (volunteer) activity with the recent National Fly Fishing comp. Al McH has sent me a colourful report on northern Victoria fishing – almost entices me to emigrate.

I believe report from a recent trip to NZ by our President is in preparation as is a report by BJ and Al McH on back country KNP fishing – a sneak preview is photo of the month.

Some photos here of the end of year BBQ and big raffle. Some folk won multiple times but were kind enough to permit 'redraw'.

Some update to our website. I just noticed that our web address has 'gone secure' ... it now has that little 's' in the https prefix. The old http address seems to be continuing to work, but you might want to change any bookmarks to our webpage. The automatic notification of blog posts still seems to be using the http address.

This edition will come out just before our January Carp event Sun 15 Jan – tips on our [news blog](#).

Any and all submissions from members for future newsletters will be appreciated anytime.

Coming Events

Meeting: 8th February.

First Meeting for 2023 – more details via email.

Fly Tying

None for December or January.

Next Events

Sun 15 Jan – Locally chasing natives and carp – led by Claude. More detail [here](#).

Fri-Sun 10-12 Feb – Jindabyne for all manner of trout fishing – led by Bill. Firm booking and money needed by end of Jan. Full details via email.

Salt Water Trip 2022

John

.....and the winner is?

The first weekend in December reminded us of a taste of summer, Tuross Head certainly provided an ideal setting for the annual CAA Salt Water trip. Four eager members journeyed down to the Coast, Owen was the first to arrive during the early afternoon of Friday 2nd, John was next to arrive at dusk, followed by Bill and Alan. Accommodation was provided by the BeachFront Caravan Park in the way of cabins, van and tent sites. The weather was glorious with day time temps in the low twenties.

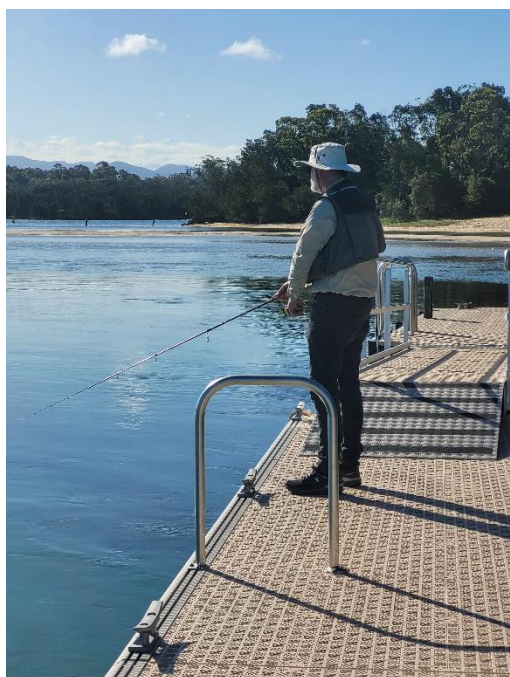




Owen was first up on Saturday morning not long after dawn, armed with two beach rods and a camping chair Owen headed for the beach, unfortunately crabs and seagulls were the only victors! According to local folklore, sunrise is the time for beach fishing.

John and Owen retired to the Boatshed Cafe for a bite of lunch, fish and chips was the order of the day, Bill and Glenys joined just after 1.00pm following a long drive with an AVan camper trailer in tow.

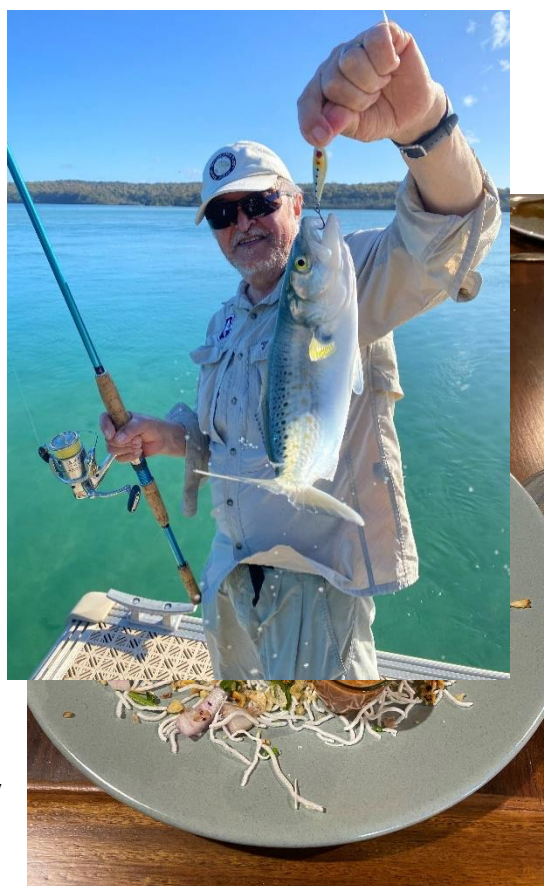
Mid afternoon John found Bill fishing off the new boat ramp jetty,



Bill was in the middle of changing tactics - a move that delivered the only fish of the weekend! Following an engaging fight Bill landed a healthy Australian Salmon! A photo shoot was followed by a release. We continued fishing for a while, Bill departed to finalise setting up

camp and preparing for the evening meal at the Pickled Octopus. During this time Alan arrived, assembled his fly rod and stalked fish on the northern approach to Tuross Heads - Alan counted a number of takes, however was unable to land a fish. Owen on the other hand decided to try his luck on the beach, as the evening light began to fail, once again crabs were the only victor.

The team, joined by Glenys, Randy and Lindsay, met at the Pickled Octopus for an evening meal. The food and company were fantastic, it was great to catch up with Randy and Lindsay. We learnt that the shortage of trades isn't restricted to the Canberra region and Randy is engaging in a new hobby centred around breaking up pork carcasses into culinary delights.



Following a short interlude from fishing Randy assured us he and his boat will be ready for next year's Salt Water adventure.

Sunday would see Owen up at sunrise, beach rod in hand, only to feed crabs and seagulls. Alan attempted beach fishing from the caravan park beach, after a short interval he decided to retreat to the campsite and break camp. A breakfast favourite of a bacon and egg roll with coffee was delivered by the Boatshed Cafe, followed by departure of all but Bill who continued fishing – though with no further luck.

A great time was had by all, we enjoyed the weather, fishing, company and food. Furthermore we all left relaxed, contemplating a saltwater adventure in 2023.

A Brief Update on North Victoria

Al McH

Thought you may appreciate an update on my fly fishing excursions since the big move. My previous report focussed on some of the Eildon tributaries and a brief foray on the Goulburn downstream of the Reservoir. I haven't managed a big outing since, but am enjoying the opportunity for day trips from our home in Carlton. I have revisited the Rubicon twice, Steavenson twice, and most recently the oddly named King Parrot Creek! The main benefit of the Rubicon and Steavenson is their relative fishability in very high flows, which have been a common theme in this part of the world and one that has made national news, including significant damage to infrastructure and farms immediately downstream of the Eildon Weir.

Rubicon and Steavenson - The first time I fished the Rubicon this season I soloed the area immediately upstream from the main bridge and did 'OK' but was a little undone by the fishing pressure. There are a number of access points, and people are comfortable entering immediately upstream of others and also to overtake the dawdling fly fisherman. It's a big river though, and I think it would be useful to be able to switch to Euro nymphing to give yourself the best chance in deep water when there's lots of pressure. I moved on to the Steavenson and once again had to manage other fishos (very collegiately) and landed a very nice rainbow which I was informed was probably a reasonably recently released stocky.

I visited the Steavenson again when it was very flooded, and was going to give up and drive home until someone else pulled into the carpark and they assured me it was doable. We discussed options, and divvied up the water. I managed a little brown in what could only be called a farm ditch, but it took a dry which I was quite surprised by. While I did manage some trout from the Steavenson proper, the best action was in the Little Steavenson*, a multiple kilometre branch from the main river. After chatting with another couple of blokes new to the sport, I left a note on their car suggesting we could catch up for a fish in the future, being new to Melbourne, somewhat hopefully possibly!

I was stoked when the guys took me up on the suggestion, and I decided to show them the Rubicon. High but fishable, we started in the same spot, and were fortunate to deconflict with another fisherman who was happy to power upstream a kilometre and half without fishing. We had a great day, and whilst no expert I had great delight in trying to 'guide' these two into the best spots and they both had a fruitful session including a number of exciting dry fly takes. I dabbled with Euro, and confess to catching a nice brown I had sighted, and then caught by

jigging a perdigon through his deep back eddy. This made me look quite 'handy' despite knowing it was just a shameful product of chance. After reaching a really nice meadowy section, we returned to the car and drove up to look at the Rubicon in the rapid section near the two incredibly busy campgrounds, which is definitely not fishable in high flows. There is still lots of Rubicon I have not explored and next time I will be trying the section down from the lower power station.

King Parrot Creek - My most recent foray was 'being guided' by the lads this time, to King Parrot Creek, that they have fished a number of times as it is very close to Melbourne. This is a very long tributary of the Goulburn, and we fished a popular section from Hazeldene pub up. This small river has also been hammered by flooding and various sections are challenging to pass due to washouts, tree fall and new obstacles such as fences but our efforts were rewarded. Google searches indicate trout, mainly brown, up to 800g and I would say we pushed this mark, and also caught a number of rainbows. Whilst Tom Jarman's entry on Flylife suggests it's a highly accessible river, we were somewhat daunted by the 'trespassers will be shot' signage and exercised some caution. As described online, the insect life was prodigious and trout could be found anywhere, and would happily rise to dries although the best were taken on nymph in the deeper sections. After fishing we did explore some other access points, and this is a waterway I am excited to return to and continue to explore, although I sense the best results will be found where other anglers 'fear to tread' whilst still obeying regulations around access.

Overall, these fisheries are definitely benefiting from the high rainfall, both the direct benefit to the trout in terms of food, water temps, shelter etc, and the reduced angling pressure. Long may it continue. (* I have recently been told that the Little Steavenson is not 'public' which may explain why it is not mentioned online. I find this hard to believe as it is a branch diverted in support of agriculture, which means you could just 'divert' the majority of a rivers flow and argue no access. Anyway, lots of people fish it without complaint and I will continue to do so).



The Little Steavenson, not as dirty as it looks but very high.



Al with his brown he jigged from the depths.

I wasn't kidding when I said a farm ditch that empties into the Steavenson (Keppel Creek)





A pretty brown on a dry from the farm ditch.



The Rubicon, very high but a lovely stretch.

King Parrot Photos:



Nick with a great brown from King Parrot.

Al with a brown so engorged it looks deformed.





A typical stretch of the upper King Parrot.

(Ed: I've added this to [our 'places' blog](#))

December 2022 Australian Fly Fishing Championships

Lyll

The call went out in October for volunteers for the December 2022 Australian Fly Fishing Championships based in Jindabyne. FFA (Fly Fish Australia) needed volunteer Controllers to judge and record fish length, call time and ensure competitors remain within their assigned beat. It required a week in Jindabyne, a four wheel drive, plenty of diesel and a sense of humour. I was too slow to put my hand down and was appointed Head Controller having previously volunteered to control at a number of FFA events including the 2019 World Championships in Tasmania.

The dozen or so Controllers were a collection of Sydney Fly Rodders, ACT Fly Fishers and a host of volunteers from coastal NSW. The competitors came from as far away as Tasmania and were all serious about the task at hand.

The events always begin with a Controllers' Briefing and a Competitors' Briefing the day before the commencement of the competition, this time based around the hospitality of the Lake Jindabyne Hotel. Prior to the briefings the river controllers had all driven an hour and a half to Tom Groggin to be introduced to their respective beats on the Murray River on the edge of Kosciusko National Park. Some of the beats were a long walk from the nearest vehicle access and others required hands and knees crawling through blackberries.



The river was cranky and running hard. Controllers are not meant to enter the water to measure fish or follow the angler. Instead, they are meant to remain land-based and try to assist (rescue) anglers who unintentionally go for a swim (more of that later). This creates difficulty when the angler is able to inch their way up the very edge of the flooded Murray past forests of riverside blackberries and impenetrable, thick scrub. If the Controller loses sight of the angler because we just can't get to them and they net a fish, the angler would not be happy. Technically, the angler must bring the fish to the Controller which takes competition time and potentially reduces their score. Ethically, the Controller should do all they can within the rules to assist the angler. This led to some pretty torn up clothes when hearing the call "fish, fish" somewhere on the other side of the blackberries!!!



The Murray River at Tom Groggin was the only moving water beat. The other boat and bank beats were Lake Jindabyne, Lake Crackenback, Buckenderra and Braemar. You can imagine the logistics of getting anglers and Controllers to the same place at the same time with nobody being disadvantaged.

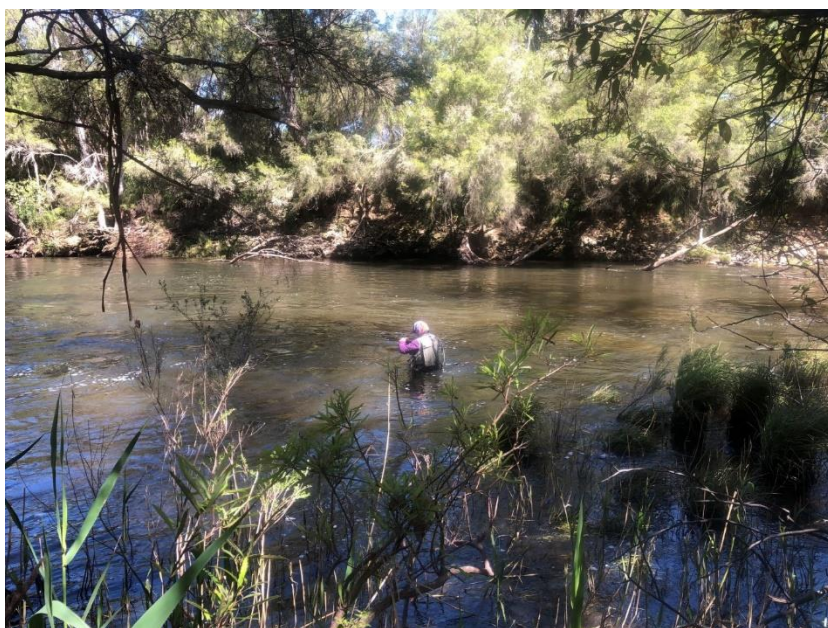
The morning beats were 08:00 to 11:00 and afternoon 2:30 to 5:30 which means wake up at 05:00, meet at 6:00, drive ninety minutes to Tom Groggin to meet up with competitors at 7:30 and drive straight to our beats for anglers to reconnoitre their water and plan their tactics, control 8:00 to 11:00 then bid farewell to our new friends who have the afternoon location on their minds. Afternoon anglers arrive around 1:30, drive to their respective beats for the recce, scrub bash 2:30 to 5:30 to keep contact with competitors, Controllers meet at the camp ground at 6:00 to hand in score cards, drive back to Jindabyne arriving at 7:30, get some food then fall asleep in the motel watching the cricket at 9:00. Repeat!!! These are the kinds

of circumstances that form bonds between people, in particular volunteers.

The most courageous and sure footed anglers who braved the deeper water were rewarded while others less mobile “blanked”.

There were notable successes on my beat as well as a few sad stories. The most successful competitor on my beat was a lady (forgive my political incorrectness) from Tasmania who caught the most fish AND the largest fish. Every time a competitor nets a fish it is a joint celebration by both Controller and angler. She and I have remained in contact with Zoom fly casting classes which is a magnificent help to me in my teaching journey.

My friend Di wouldn't mind me sharing that she was the highlight of the event. She wore a self-inflating life jacket and less than five minutes into her session lost her footing in the fast flowing current and did the “Murray River backstroke” while the jacket inflated with a bang. After the screaming



and recovery with tangled straps in a tangled fly vest I calmly asked “can I assist you?” It remained a joke for the remainder of the event.



The most important thing were the friends I made, both competitors and Controllers, during the event. We shared time together on the Murray and back in Jindabyne during the event and are still in touch. We have all caught up on sleep and are enthusiastic about volunteering for the next Australian Fly Fishing Championship. If you have time, energy and a sense of humour I would encourage you to join us. I guarantee you will get more than you give.



In my in-box

Bill



Peter sent me a picture of this recent capture – a very pretty mirror carp with most distinctive markings.

Came across this [great video](#). It is a collaboration from Jensen Fly Fishing and Orvis and demonstrates the impressive performance of a particular emerger pattern. There were comments that the segment showing the fly being tied is way too fast. I've taken the liberty to edit this section and slowing down the critical steps. Available [here](#). Have added this to [our Fly Tying Blog](#).

Claude somehow convinced his management that he needed some personal development training only available in New Zealand – here is one result (see also cover photo)



End of Year BBQ



An even dozen of us turned up with the weather threatening and winds buffeting. Regardless, a good chance to catch up with good friends including getting to know our new member Trevor. The raffle went off with prizes from our good friends and supporters at Boss Outdoor –

represented here by Nathan. The major prize of a \$100 voucher from Boss Outdoors was won by Ken – congratulations.

The 'minor' prizes comprised two hand selected dry fly packages (both won by a confessed dry fly snob) and notably a bunch of special Manic Tackle Mega Rabbit streamers.



MADE FROM BUNNIES



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 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.

[NSWCFA Response to Pumped Hydro](#)

The proliferation of proposals for pumped hydro has been a discussion point in NSWCFA. While it will monitor and engage on state-wide issues, affiliates have been encouraged to get engaged with projects in their area. NSWCFA have produced some guidelines describing possible impacts on recreational fishing from pumped hydro, and suggestions on how to get involved.

[January Carp Outing](#)

The information about this event has lots of great hints which have been copied into our ['Tips' blog](#).

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.

[Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach](#)

Looking for volunteer adventurers to learn how to whitewater raft and help maintain the river.

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](#).

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.

Monaro Acclimatisation Society



Messages from Steve Samuels, President.

Dear Supporters

This weekend just gone volunteers met on the shores of Lake Eucumbene to stock 10,000 yearling trout bred and raised by the staff at Gaden Trout hatchery. Coordinated by the Monaro Acclimatisation Society, MAS members, local anglers and members of Trout Trollers Australia and Alpine Trout Fishing Australia gathered at Buckenderra Holiday village to assist in the release by transporting the fish to various parts of the lake.

Meanwhile a similar event occurred at Lake Jindabyne with 10,000 yearlings also released there.

With such quality fish being released into our impoundments the future of trout fishing in the Snowies is assured.

I would like to express my appreciation to all anglers involved and to the Gaden Hatchery staff for producing such wonderful fish.



And then some good news on access roads to the Snowy Lakes – Peter and I will be happy with the first repairs.

This email is to let you know that the Monaro Acclimatisation Society has been successful in its bid to get funding from the NSW Recreational Fishing Freshwater Trust Expenditure Committee (RFFTEC) to repair various tracks leading to lakes Eucumbene and Jindabyne. As you are aware the recent wet years have taken a toll on many tracks and they are in a poor state of repair.

Many of the Eucumbene tracks we were going to repair are now inaccessible due to the high water – we tried to identify tracks above the 70% high water mark, but with Eucumbene now at 69% it seems our calculations were a little off. However we will still be working to do as much as we can to ensure that anglers have safe access to the water. I would also like you to note that Snowy Hydro is partnering us in this venture and they too have made a substantial commitment to the project.

This week the first of the repairs began with the entry section of the Middlingbank track being graded and rock drainage channels installed. While this repair is shorter than we originally planned we have not gone all the way to the lake as the water is still rising and we need to wait until it stops before doing more.

As you move around the lakes you will see this work being undertaken in the new year and it is a clear example of your licence fees at work through the Monaro Acclimatisation Society and our partnership with RFFTEC and Snowy Hydro Ltd. We will not be able to do all the tracks this year, and some of the bigger tracks will require substantial funding beyond what we could get from the Recreational Fishing Trust Funds but we are seeking options to have these repaired. The MAS sees this as the start of a long term plan to keep access tracks viable and safe for anglers and visitors.

In the meantime I hope that you all have a great festive season and great fishing for next year.



Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach

This came from Antia as part of her end of year message.

Where is the Forgotten River?

Maintaining the health of the upper Murrumbidgee River is a common goal for our community and there are many projects and initiatives underway to support this. Good water management is an important part of the picture because the upper Murrumbidgee River is a highly regulated stream. Tantangara Dam diverts more than 90% of its headwater flows out of the catchment to Eucumbene Dam as part of the Snowy Hydro Scheme.

Here is where it gets as complicated because unlike other river systems in Australia there is a number of licenses and legislative instruments that apply to how water is managed in the upper 'bidgee. To boot- the upper Murrumbidgee is a river that is managed across two state jurisdictions (the ACT and NSW). These complicated arrangements have meant that the upper Murrumbidgee has been 'left behind' when it comes to modern day river management and this is a concern given that we know its health is in decline. As a catchment community we need to let our decision-makers know that we want to safeguard the health of our river and best practice flow management is an important part of this.



The Australian River Restoration Centre has compiled a great website which explains all the issues and what our community can do to highlight that we do not want our river to be forgotten! Go to <https://theforgottenriver.au/> to find out more!

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 probably in hiatus while the refurbishment program is in train. However there are also saltwater events across the state. 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 is recorded here:

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 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

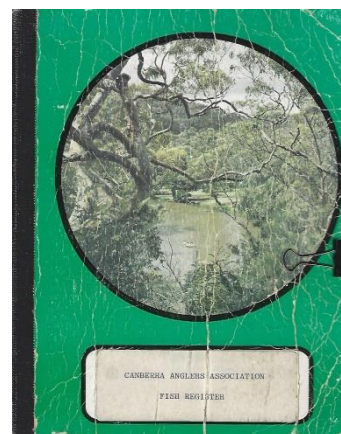
NSW/ACT

Round	Date	Venue
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 [club trophies](#) is the little green book brought to meetings by the Secretary clearly marked as "Canberra Anglers Association Fish Register" pictured here. 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	Murray Cod	60cm and ?83cm?	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong
Jayden	Rainbow	36cm and just over 1lb	(Dry) Fly	Kiandra, 26 Nov
Peter	Mirror Carp	43 cm?	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong, 11 Dec
Bill	Australian Salmon	Est 30cm	Lure	Tuross – Saltwater Event – 3 Dec

Surely there are more people fishing than just this lot. Report them in to Burley Line even if ineligible for trophies (eg out of area), just for interest and entertainment.

Contact Us

Canberra Anglers Association Inc.

PO Box 4115
Hawker, ACT, 2614

Visit us on the web at

<https://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au/>

Burley Line contributions to:

burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Find us on

facebook

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). 2022/2023 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