

THE BURLEY LINE



Stuart wading chasing Kingfish following the giant rays foraging at Golden Bay. Top end South Island NZ 2017. Classic sight fishing. Photo by Josh Hutchins.



From the Editor's Desk

Great photo of the month from life member Stuart. Rivals the photos provided by one of our new members, Paul, in his talk last month – in our [‘Tips’ blog](#).

Many thanks to contributors, but especially to Claude for his efforts finishing off this edition in my absence.

BJ has responded to suggestions of a Bondi Forest Lodge event very soon after our August Annual General Meeting. Indeed the tentative date is immediately after the 9 Aug AGM ... Bondi dates 11-13 Aug. BJ is contemplating bringing down the drift boat to take folk in turns. Also looking about another 120 minute fly tying/fishing competition. Hold on for more info.

Lyll has been to New Zealand recently, but more significantly helping out a mutual mate, Barry Perkins, with a fly casting event in Gore – Lyll provides some more complete with photos.

Greg S has spotted another Landline article of interest. Mark S has also popped some stuff into my in-box.

A bit been happening on our News Blog – eg you heard it first there about the Tantangara trip rescheduling.

We have added some member profiles so you can learn a little more about our new and existing club members. We'll be in contact soon to get your profile....start thinking about your 'desired fishing superpower.'

Coming Events

Meeting: 14th Jun.

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom.

Fly – Tying 28th Jun.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details via email.

Next Events

Watch this space – 11-13 Aug, ie weekend following the AGM, Bondi Forest Lodge. All details to be confirmed by BJ.

2023 Matura On The Fly Festival

Lyll

Like many CAA members, autumn found me with friends fly fishing Southland in New Zealand again. This time my partners in crime were our very own Ian (organiser) and Canberra man Pete Tinson (head chef).

For many reasons, not the least is that he is a top fellow, I rate Barry Perkins of [Fly Fish Maitai](#) as the best fly fishing guide in New Zealand. Formerly a dairy farmer, he has unequalled access to remote sections of the Maitai River.

Many will know Barry's friendly face. He could only spare one day but a 56 cm of brown trout told the whole story.

Unplanned but known in advance, the *Maitai On The Fly* festival was being held during our two weeks in Gore. Barry said "we might have a job for you." "Gladly" was my response.



The festival, organised by Gore District Council, was held on the banks of the Maitai River and featured displays by local fishing clubs including fly tying by Southland Fly Fishing Club, Gavin Hurley's fly shop based in Lumsden, Gore Returned Services Association (RSL) Fishing Club and more.



A feature was a professional series of trout recipes demonstrated by Dunedin Master Chef winner Brett McGregor. He is a brilliant presenter and clearly very good at what he does.



That brings us to casting tuition for juniors which I was happily roped into by Barry Perkins.





This is the funny part. Barry and I walked out into the muddy Maitava to assess where the drop-off was to ensure wading safety for people who wanted to have a cast with us. Moving water demanded efficient single hand Spey casts – single Spey, double Spey, snap T, snap C, circle Spey and so on. The high bank behind us was empty when we slid down the grassy bank to enter the water.

After a few minutes I turned to watch my D-loop at the back and saw ten people watching from the bank. Five minutes later there were twenty and then it went silly after that.



What could make a better day? Fantastic trout dishes by Brett, chatting with local fly fishing enthusiasts, the company of guide Barry Perkins and wife Dianne and teaching fly casting to juniors. I had to decline a number of requests from parents for future casting classes “I’m not from ‘round here” but am seriously considering an invitation from Gore District Council to return for *Maitava On The Fly* in 2024. Excellent all around!!!



Name: Al McHaffie

Joined the CAA: Nov 2020

First started fishing: 5? (see photo). 12 for fly. 19 for spear.

Fishing Interests: Fly fishing mainly, but will always fish bait or lures at sea when opportunity presents (even laid the odd set-net with dad back in the day) – oh and Spearfishing... does that count? (see photo)

Favourite Target Species: Trout

Favourite Fishing Memory: Getting dad his first trout on dry in the Goodradigbee (see photo) – thanks Australia!

Fishing Goal in the next year: I need to learn saltwater fly as Kel and I are planning to buy a catamaran and go travelling!

Other Information we might find interesting: I now live in Melbourne and have been having great fun learning these new rivers. One thing I will say is I have had a lot of fun meeting people on the rivers and actually going to the effort of catching up with them again. I am no expert but I have been helping these new friends learn the art as best I can which I am finding very rewarding. If you do make it down to Vic I would love to show you some of my favourite spots.

Also, I have posted some videos, check out our Youtube channel 'LeavetoRoam'.

If you had one fishing 'super power' what would it be: Definitely, definitely the power to see the trout somehow – like a Heads Up Display, but that's almost cheating, so maybe just levitation for a bit of extra spotting height? I did sight fish my best ever trout though (see photo). Haha, how about the power of not getting sea-sick... ☺

Vale – Shaun Gambrell



20 March 1972 - 12 April 2023

Shaun Gambrell passed away unexpectedly on the 13 April as a result of COVID complications. Shaun was a close friend to a number of club members and a contributor to club activities and a keen participant in our outings. BJ and I first met Shaun on a Bondi Forrest outing which was my first trip with the club. It was there that he introduced a number of us to the 'Gambugger' which he used to great effect the following day when he caught four fish whilst the rest of us got donuts.

Shaun was always generous to share his knowledge and toys, whether it was telling his mates he was about to place an order from the USA... 'what do you want to add', dropping off fly tying material when his mates had COVID, lending his car fridge to test before they decide which to buy or giving a club talk on 'Loch Style Trout Fishing', something he was very passionate about.

Shaun enjoyed a club camping trip – whether it was showing off his latest camping gadget like a Japanese Pull saw that cuts like a chainsaw, demonstrating a recent tent purchase or cooking a Japanese curry or scrambled eggs. A few of us would catch up every now and again at Lake Ginninderra to practice casting or just try each other's gear – interchanging either our rods, reels or lines to get that perfect combination!

Shaun suffered from a similar affliction to many of us...he liked gadgets and gear. Shaun had many fly tying, camping and workshop gadgets. Often happy to lend to share knowledge...or grow the cadre of gear accumulators.

Some good memories with Shaun:

- Listening to his stories of joy about going on trips to special places with Sarah and the dog (on occasions)and hearingoh look at that ... what a surprise...that looks like a stream that could hold trout...lucky I packed my rod ...'just in case'
- Happily fishing on the Goodradigbee despite a red-belly black eyeballing him from not a great distance
- Hearing him yell 'bugger off' in the middle of the night...finding out the next morning that wild brumbies kept him up licking his swag
- Building stuff together – rod locker and dubbing brush maker
- Fishing out of 'Trout Bum' at Bondi Forest and watching him bag many fish
- Catching little redfin on thread whilst practicing casting at LG
- Doing a drift trip with him on the Swampy Plain River
- Three mates getting two handed Spey casting lessons with Lyall during COVID lockdown...fishing is a sport right!
- Observing his growing passion for competition fishing in recent years
- Helping with fly casting to the public – casting, cooking or just having a good natter
- His solid friendship



Our thoughts are with Sarah, the family and his many friends.

We will remember him as a very thoughtful, generous and knowledgeable fly fisherman - taken from us far too early. Vale Shaun Gambrell...the 'Big Fella'

BJ and Claude



Name: Ryan Dunn

Joined the CAA: September 2022

First started fishing:

4 or 5 years old

Fishing Interests: All kinds of lure and fly fishing

Favourite Target Species: Trout!

Favourite Fishing Memory: Catching a 96cm Flathead that won me \$2500. (see photo)

Fishing Goal in the next year: To catch a saltwater fish on fly, and catch a trout out of a lake on fly.

Other Information we might find interesting: I enjoy fly tying and camping and I am always keen to meet new people to share the hobby with! I am married and have a daughter. I have 2 pet snakes, a lizard and a dog. I also have a boat.

If you had one fishing 'super power' what would it be: Definitely would be to have the ability to see fish in the water, like x-ray vision type thing, or maybe be able to read their minds!

Tantangara Area Trout Fishing Outing 19-21 May 23

Eight club members had an adventurous fishing trip to Tantangara despite not knowing each other well beforehand. The cold weather made the warm fire a welcoming sight for everyone upon their arrival on Friday evening. Greg and Charlie, being father and son, already had a pre-existing relationship within the club.

As we gathered around the fire, the conversation turned to camping gear and the discussion of useful items for the chilly night. Someone suggested a hot water bottle, which caught the attention of most participants, as it would provide warmth and comfort during the cold night ahead. Many mentally noted the idea, considering it a perfect solution for staying cozy.

It seems like the group (Paul, Geoff, Callum, Trev, Claude) was bonding and preparing for a memorable fishing experience despite being relatively unfamiliar with one another before the trip. Greg and Charlie arrived after the rest of us climbed into our warm sleeping bags.



The following morning greeted the club members with grey clouds and mist, creating a moody atmosphere. As everyone emerged from their various sleeping quarters, ranging from swags to small single-person tents and different types of rooftop tents, the fire was once again lit to provide warmth in the chilly weather.

To kickstart the day, the group prepared a variety of breakfast options, including different versions of eggs and bacon. With the cold weather in mind, nobody strayed too far from the comforting warmth of the fire. The decision was made to not rush off early since the trout were unlikely to be very active in the cold conditions.

Most of the club members agreed to fish in the Murrumbidgee River above Tantangara. Claude, Geoff, and Trev specifically ventured towards the section where the river meets the lake. Due to the increased water level compared to a previous trip, we encountered some challenging 4WD terrain to reach our desired fishing spot. Despite the water being clear and at a reasonable level, only five fish were caught using a combination of tightline and NZ wool indicator fishing techniques, all with nymphs, despite the presence of rising fish on occasions. In hindsight, the group concluded that it would have been better to walk for about 30 minutes prior to starting fishing in order to access more traditional trout water.

The above photos depict Trev providing Geoff, who was on his second trip, with some helpful fishing instructions.

While Claude, Geoff, and Trev fished the Murrumbidgee where it meets Tantangara, Paul and Callum decided to drive an additional 20 minutes to explore an upstream section of the river. Paul, being the wise and wily fisherman, made sure that they walked for 30 minutes before starting to fish. This decision proved beneficial as Callum was thrilled to catch his first significant trout, filling him with excitement and joy.

Paul's knowledge came into play as he skilfully selected a rig that resulted in a remarkable catch of 12 fish. His success on the water earned him well-deserved praise from the group. It seems like Paul's experience and understanding of fishing tactics paid off in a big way.

Overall, despite the relatively modest catch for most of the group (except for Paul), the day was productive and filled with memorable experiences.

Upon returning to the camp, the club members wasted no time and started a fire to warm themselves up, even while still wearing their waders. As each person trickled in from their day's fishing adventures, they gratefully gathered around the fire for warmth and companionship. The comforting fire was a welcome sight for everyone, providing respite from the cold outdoors.

After warming up by the fire, the club members shed their waders and began cooking dinner over the hot coals. Interestingly, it turned out that at least three of us had sausages grilling on the campfire, perhaps a popular choice among the group. The aroma of the sizzling

sausages filled the air, further enhancing the sense of camaraderie and shared enjoyment.

In a delightful gesture, Greg treated everyone to a delicious dessert cooked in a camp oven. It was a special treat that brought additional warmth and enjoyment to the evening. The group likely gathered around to savor the sweet indulgence, further deepening the bonds formed during the trip.

The evening around the campfire, filled with good food, laughter, and shared experiences, provided an opportunity for the club members to unwind, reflect on their day's adventures, and strengthen their newfound friendships.



Trev, Paul, Charlie and Paul enjoying the fire



Everyone retired to their tents and warm sleeping bags not long after dessert was served. Despite the fire, the intermittent showers and cold wind dampened the mood. After a blustery night, we awoke to some leftover sleet/snow. The wind and showery morning led all of us to make a quick decision that it would be better to spend the day at home with family, friends or drying out our gear.

The intermittent showers and cold wind had a dampening effect on the overall mood. So, after enjoying the dessert and spending some time around the campfire, the club members eventually retired to their respective tents and warm sleeping bags. The challenging weather conditions continued throughout the night, and when morning arrived, the group woke up to the remnants of sleet or snow on the ground.

Given the persistent wind and showery morning, we collectively made a quick decision, concluding that it would be more prudent to spend the day at home, with families, friends, or simply taking the opportunity to dry out gear.



We were welcomed on Sunday morning by snow or sleet leftovers



Some great photos from Paul...following up from his photography presentation

The camaraderie among the club members was evident through our interactions, shared excitement, and support for one another's achievements. Fishing not only provided us with recreational enjoyment but also served as a platform for bonding and creating lasting memories.

The takeaway for me is....dont be afraid to go away on a weekend without your normal fishing pal. Club events are a great opportunity to meet new and interesting people.

The camaraderie among the club members during the fishing trip was great. Despite not knowing each other before the trip, the interactions, shared excitement, and support demonstrated the strong bond that can be formed through shared experiences.

The realization I took away was to not be afraid to embark on a weekend getaway without your usual fishing companion is an important one. Club events, offer a valuable opportunity to meet new and interesting people. By stepping out of your comfort zone and joining such events, you open yourself up to the possibility of forming new friendships, learning from others' experiences, and expanding your social circle within the fishing community.

Spotted by Greg S

Possible fodder for newsletter – lungfish on Landline

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=810979553781398>

In my In-Box

From Mark S “A fun day on very small dries” – I’m assured on some local waters.



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.

[Menindee Lakes Fish Kill Inquiry](#)

NSW Government has established an inquiry to report 31 Aug.

[ACT Parks Closures](#)

Warning from ACT Parks on closures due to aerial culling – 22-26 May.

[Improving your Fish Photography](#)

I've added Paul's presentation onto the ['Tips' blog](#). Just a few of his images here to show you some of his skills.



[Latest MAS Meeting](#)

Much information eg the Snowy Hydro 2.0 trout grow-out facility – link to MAS Facebook.

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 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.

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.

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*.

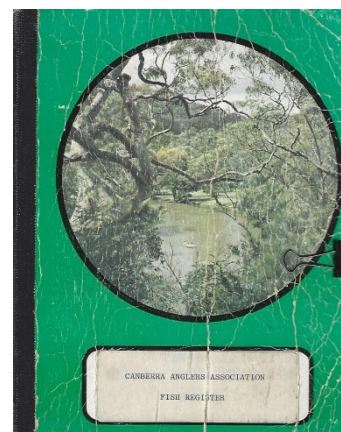
Dates	Event Details
Jan 2024?	I would suggest that NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne are probably in hiatus while the refurbishment program is in train.

	<p>However there are also saltwater events across the state.</p> <p>https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</p>
Oct 2023	<p>We can anticipate Go Fishing Day NSW version.</p> <p>https://gonefishingday.com.au/</p>

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
Peter	Carp	63cm	Bait	Carp Event – 15 Jan - LBG
BJ	Carp	60cm	Fly	Carp Event – 15 Jan - LBG
Shaun	Carp	40cm	Fly	Carp Event – 15 Jan - LBG
Rod and Bill	Carp	Not reported	Bait	Carp Event – 15 Jan - LBG

Mike and Bill	Brown and rainbow Trout	Various, of modest sizes	Fly	Jindy Event – 10-12 Feb – some 'rivers somewhere'
Geoff	Brown and rainbow Trout	'three small catches'	Fly	Jindy Event – 10-12 Feb – Mowambah
Claude and BJ	Rainbow Trout	Most around 20-25cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles, Cotter River, Sun 19 Feb
BJ	Rainbow Trout	33cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles, Cotter River, Sun 19 Feb
Jayden	Rainbow Trout	about 10 between 210mm and 285mm	Fly	Lyle Knowles, Cotter River, Sun 19 Feb
Micheal	Trout	30cm plus	Fly	Tumut trip, Goobarragandra River, 4-5 Mar
Owen	Rainbow Trout	Best 35cm, others under 20cm	Fly	Tumut trip, Goobarragandra River, 4-5 Mar
Ryan	Brown Trout	Best at estimated 45cm (can be judged in due course from photo with net as a gauge	Fly	Tumut trip, Goobarragandra River, 4-5 Mar
Bill	Brown Trout	One measured at 38cm, one estimated at 25cm	Fly	Thredbo River, 4-5 Mar
Peter and Bill	Rainbow Trout	Not measured High 20s, low 30s	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 10 Mar
Lachy	Brown and Rainbow Trout	25-30cm	Fly	Goodradigbee Trip, 14-16 Apr

Ryan	Rainbow Trout	36cm	Fly	Goodradigbee Trip, 14-16 Apr
------	---------------	------	-----	------------------------------

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

BOSS
OUTDOOR



Capital Fly Casting

www.capitalflycasting.com

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.