

THE BURLEY LINE



One of Ryan's more colourful creations.



From the Editor's Desk

Apologies for being a little late – have been travelling (a 9,700km road trip!).

Read on for an excellent story from Stefan – who knew that we had trout cod in the Cotter. Many thanks also for Greg S. He's been assiduous in trawling the Internet for interesting stuff – has helped to provide some excellent content – click on his links and be blown away. Finally, Claude has reported on a final session on the streams before the closure – much appreciate the yarn and photos from Travis.

Ryan has been hard at work experimenting with new ideas (see our cover photo). One will be the subject of our next flytying session – material list below, more detail soon ... many thanks Ryan.

At the risk of being a bit 'political', the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (they manage freshwater fishing on behalf of the government) has been caught up in some tricky legislation. Seems the government is being swayed to formally recognise the value of salmonids, alongside natives.

Just remember, the July meeting is the last time you can register your catch for consideration for trophies. If you haven't already done so, make sure you bring in your trophies so that they can go to the engravers. I don't think I'm up for any trophies this year, but I have advised Lyall that I don't want a mini-trophy for retention (they aren't a small cost to the club) but I have asked for the little shield – I can put any I'm awarded on the mini-trophies on my shelf.

Coming Events

Meeting: 12th Jul.

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom. In light of this clashing with a State of Origin league match, following a business meeting we propose to have a short session sharing fly fishing tips and tricks and a short fly casting video by an eminent casting instructor (not our qualified Secretary). Please also consider volunteering to join the committee/council in advance of the AGM or hosting a CAA field trip.

Fly – Tying 26th Jul.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – we'll be tying Ryan's 'wiggly' damsel. Could be deadly at Bondi Forest? More details via email.

Next Events

4-6 Aug, Bondi Forest Lodge. All details available from BJ. Some spaces still available. 90 Minute Challenge is on (90 minutes to tie two flies from provided materials and catch the best fish. Or should that be 120 minutes?).

10, 17 and 24 Sep, our annual fly casting for the public is on again.

Annual Fly Casting Instruction Days

The flyer is out and about. One key change is to the location for the final day – now Lake Ginninderra.

Canberra Anglers Association Presents

Learn to fly cast

September 10, 17, 24



Bringing anglers
together since 1945

10am - noon

**BESIDE QUESTACON ON MALL
ROAD WEST** Best parking at
Questacon

**RODS PROVIDED
OR BRING YOUR OWN**

Sunglasses/eye protection
required to participate

**ALL LEVELS &
AGES WELCOME**

Sausage sizzle - Drinks - Raffles

FREE

Coaching
by CAA members
including Fly Fishers
International
instructors

**24 September will be at Nengi Bamir Beach on Lake
Ginninderra at Diddams Close west** (Google maps Nengi Bamir)

www.canberra-anglers.asn.au

Questions ... contact-us@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Rambling with Stefan - Two; 'Over the Rainbow'

Stefan

I did not imagine that the subject of the following story could be slipped past the judges as a bonafide entry for the "Lyle Knowles Trophy", even though trout is part of its name, and I actually had a fly rod in hand when I "caught" this one very special fish. However it does make valuable musing.

I had just managed to land a lovely rainbow in a small pool about fifty meters short of the spill pond below Bendora Dam during the LK competition day. I was still high with that sense of achievement that comes after netting a vigorous fish and did not notice what lay immediately underfoot. It was sheer amazement when I literally just about stood on the head of a huge fish, its grey-blue back exposed above the water level, huge eyes staring right back at me, trapped in a small section of water, trapped from moving by the bed rocks. Now what was immediately



obvious, these rocks were not of the natural, being the crushed rockfill that remained from the construction phase of the nearby dam wall and overflow spill weir. These rocks weren't those nice round river-worn rocks of, say, the upper Snowy or such ancient mountain streams, but horrible angular things that are not easily passed by large fish, especially at low water levels. I suspect this generously sized fish got wedged here when the river flow had been abruptly cut by the dam management.

What I had happened upon of course was one of those re-established "trout cod" of the Cotter River or what should be more generally, and more correctly to my view, be known as a Blue Nose. They have no relation to the introduced northern hemisphere Roman named trutta, the European brown river trout and its derivatives,

the only true trout form. Schubart knew that, even though he called them Forellen, and ended his

script with a dire warning to the damsels. It may be nice to be just a Koala and not be encumbered with the lot of Ursus, or a bit like those who refer to their overfed cargo carriers as "utes" and you can wily smile and remind them that like dinosaurs, "utility coupés" are all-but now extinct, (do I hear a protest from the birds?); it seems names matter, however I digress.

Now, I was somewhat at odds in what to do. Handling endangered animals comes with certain penalties, and I was not sure on the status here. I know that "Maccas" are or have been on the no-handle cut-line release basis, but did that also apply to this precious fish. In consideration, I figured that in its current configuration its outlook was severely limited. The weather was hot and predation by others, particularly the previously mentioned remnant dinosaurs; a real risk if it stayed where it was. So I took it upon myself to help this individual out!

The last time I had held such a special fish was many years ago, while on a worm bait and spin fishing foray in the gorge section of the Murrumbidgee River somewhat south of Michelago. At the time in the late 'seventies it was not unusual to encounter native fish of the like of Bidyan, Tandan and of course the first true antipodean sport fish, Macca Australasicas, alas not so much now that the scourge that is European carp and redfin have all but swamped the environment. I caught that bluey as bycatch when targeting the still abundant half metre rainbows that patrolled the edges of larger pools for prey, manytimes being the juveniles of the aforesaid natives. Those days were mainly spent with spoons and the French styled "Celta" spinner. It was just exciting to watch a huge fish come out of the depths and just follow the towed lure, then turn and return to its home. Should we consider no-hook fishing, maybe the ultimate form of fishing ecologically, like the new big game hunting with just binoculars or camera?

Most activities of the human interaction with the surrounds, leave an impact however slight. Limiting that impact positively is difficult. It's something of a dark cloud over my fishing days memories, when once, I inadvertently caught and thereby caused the drowning death of a platypus. I was using worms, unfortunately one of their favourite foods. Now, I was saddened at the time but now rationalise that seeing that it was a male, the consequence was not as dire as if it had been a female of breeding age. Males, we now know, will regularly fight to defend their territory to the death using their poison spurs and so I figure this vacant space would again be taken up by another animal. However what are the real consequences of my mis-catch, considering I had the exquisite experience of feeling the super soft fur, the super sensitive snout (nothing like those on cheap airport stuffed exemplars), small near blind eyes and see the defensive spurs. Yes, who really knows, we only perceive long term trends in the much later. Someone has said that it is impossible to step in the same stream twice! In any case, time to go back to the cod story.

I had to lift the stranded animal out of its predicament, not an easy task as it weighed in at a massive eight kilograms over its nearly half metre length. A well grown specimen by any measure as the attached photo will show. Stu Rowland has noted that these fish were once abundant and commercially lucrative, I can see why, they are FAT. I rolled the fish onto a wetted section of rock, a quick, if somewhat un-becoming snap and then transferred into my net for transport downstream about thirty or so paces to the closest deep pool. This pool was full of schooling rainbows, I estimated in excess of one hundred, quite a picture to behold. In any case my priority was to release my cod, which happened in a flash and a quick beat of its huge tail, disappearing down under the dark shadow of a river boulder. I assumed that to be the last I would see of this naturally secretive fish. What a blast to have handled this rarity!

The Cotter River is one of the few unique catchments in Australia that has been to a large part spared the assault of modern chemicals. Being a water catchment preserve since early last century, with the aim of providing pure drinking water, it has remained clear of arsenic, copper, DDT and dieldrin contamination. These chemicals have been linked to the decline of native fishes in the wider Murray-Darling basin and have been banned from use in today's agriculture, but not before doing their harm sadly. Hopefully those charged with the management of this water course see the value in preserving this small corner of the planet for these animals.

Proud of my actions, I proceeded to catch another rainbow or two, then headed for home. I was pleased with my day out in nature, sure. But not in any measure as pleased as when I passed over the cod's pool, and from a higher vantage point saw old Blue Nose cruising about as gently as a cloud, displaying to all that this was his/her pond from now on. I can only hope that this fish gets to live out its long life, happy in the protective envelope it so deserves.

May you be happy "CHASING RAINBOWS" for the rest of your life!

Last River Fishing for the Season

Claude, with Photos from Travis

Three club amigos decided to fish local rather than head down to the shortened Eucumbene River which would no doubt be pretty busy. An easy day was planned with a relaxed departure, an hour drive, and hopefully a quiet section of river. We were lucky to find an area with no cars parked and the day (Sunday 11 June) was magnificent with light winds and sunshine – whilst not great for fishing, made it a pleasant day out

We found the river quite low despite some of the week's rain. BJ and Claude fished classic floating line dry-dropper rigs whilst Travis fished a #2WT Euro setup. We fish together reasonably regularly so it's common for us to swap our rigs during the day so we all have a chance at trying different methods.



Travis, BJ and Claude

BJ was the first strike with a rainbow on the nymph and we all felt like it was going to be a fun day. Unfortunately, the low water made the going quite tough.



BJ with his first Rainbow



Claude hitting a riffle

We found that we had to focus on pools, runs that were at least 30 cm deep, preferably deeper – but they weren't as frequent as we hoped. With the low water, we also tried spotting rather than blind casting. We saw several fish, but a bit later than hoped resulting in spooking rather than casting opportunities. Claude caught his first rainbow casting to a sighted rainbow and was surprised it took the dry.

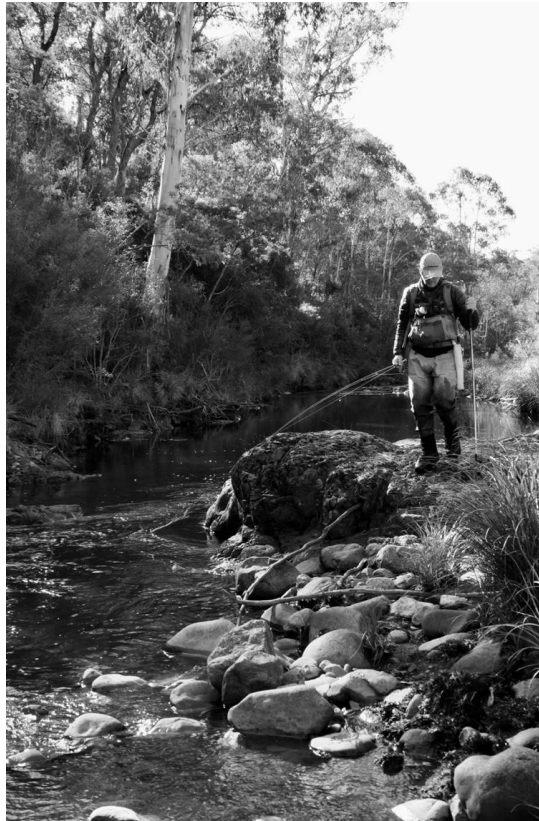


Pretty little rainbow



Claude hitting some of the deeper water – no fish

The average fishing was balanced with the good company and great day. We stopped for riverside lunch and basked in the sun trying to suck up any warmth that was available.



We were welcomed on Sunday morning by snow or sleet leftovers

The fish of the day was a sighted brown which took another dry....nothing big, but a good little fight.

Despite only five fish being caught, we all had a great day.

Thanks to Travis for most of the good photos.

Rumblings 'Across the Ditch'

Some interesting ructions are happening in respect to fishing in New Zealand.

New Zealand's Fish and Game Council (a non-government body, funded by licence fees, with statutory responsibilities) expressed significant concern about a proposed bill introduced by the NZ government, the Natural and Built Environment Bill (NBEA), to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA). The proposed bill creates a new framework for how New Zealand manages its natural environment including freshwater, bio-diversity and resources. Fish & Game is extremely concerned about the draft bill and its implications for the sustainable management of the NZ natural environment and the future of game bird hunting and freshwater fishing. They argue that there is a significant shift away from valuing introduced species such as trout and salmon. The bill removes the habitat protection of trout and salmon, which has long been safeguarded by the RMA. Fish and Game argue that this will fundamentally strip their ability to carry out their statutory duty to provide for the interests of anglers and hunters, and to ensure freshwater habitats, including wetlands, are healthy and support trout, salmon and game bird populations.

There has been a significant ground swell of objection to the draft. As a consequence, the Parliament's Environment Select Committee has proposed changes:

- enshrining the protection of the habitat of trout and salmon alongside the protection of indigenous species
- recognition of the values Kiwis place on public access to lakes and rivers
- recognition of the recreational use and enjoyment of the natural environment – and for these values to be maintained and enhanced

We'll watch with interest

Spotted by Greg S

Greg has been busy and offers up a number of interesting links:

[World's Largest Fish Nesting Ground With 60 Million Nests Discovered Under Antarctic ice](#)

[Sharks Feeding off Fraser Island](#)

[Humpty Doo barramundi farm trials black jewfish in world first for aquaculture](#)

[Close-up Trout Action](#)

[Hawaiian man's close call with tiger shark](#)

[Aerial view of a huge school of Australian Salmon](#)

[Mullet Balls](#)

Member Profile

Hmm, against my better judgement, Claude convinced me to put in my profile.



Name	Bill Blair
Joined the CAA	After Casting Instruction in 2002
First started fishing	Most seriously around 2000 originally with spinning gear and fly under bubble float – about the time my eyes couldn't see the 4x tippet and #8 fly eye
Fishing Interest	Like many here, fly fishing mainly for trout. Increasingly becoming known as a dry-fly snob
Favourite Target Species	Trout
Favourite Fishing Memory	Seeing the joy on Claude's face catching a huge brown trout immediately behind my feet
Fishing Goal in the next year	To spot more trout before they spot me
Other information we might find interesting	I've learnt so much during my time in CAA, especially from Peter, Ian and Mark. A true measure of the benefit of being part of a welcoming club
If you had one fishing 'super power' what would it be	Identifying favoured trout spots especially on the lakes and big rivers

Fly Tying 26 July – Wiggly Damsel

Hooks- main body- #14-16 wet/nymph hook (Tiemco 3769 for example).

Articulated shank- any hook of the same size with a straight eye will do, as the bend will be cut off it doesn't need to be a good quality one, but a hook that works well is a Tiemco 101 #14-16.

Tail and body- olive marabou.

Ribbing (optional)- copper wire.

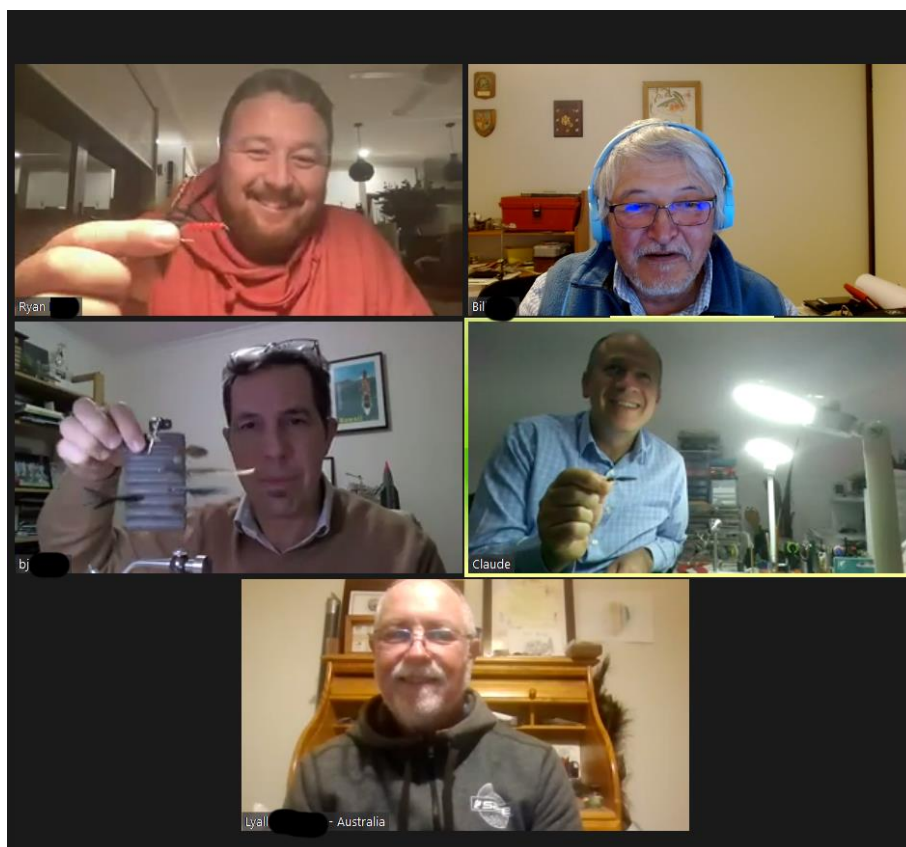
Eyes- black or gold bead chain. Extra small.

And finally some mono line. 3x tippet works well.



Fly Tying 28 June – Matuka

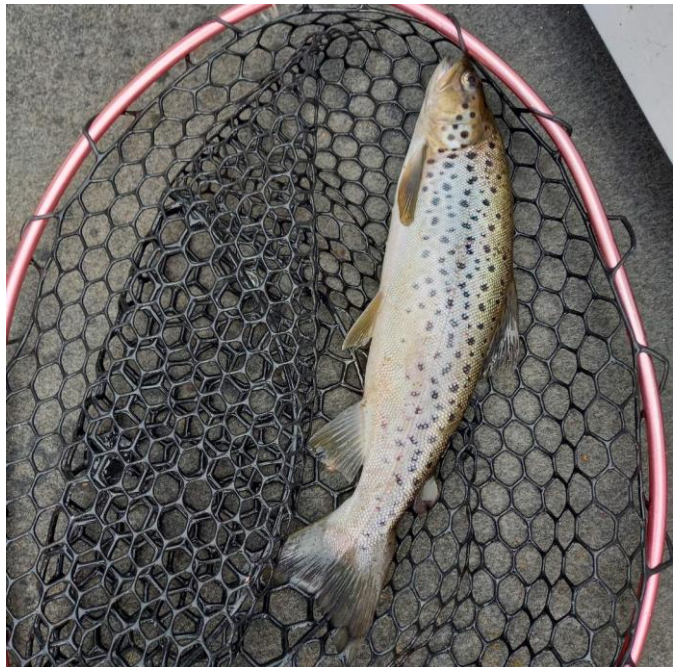
This is a classic New Zealand fly and BJ did a great job leading the audience. More members should consider attending, even if you aren't tying it is a good chance to catch up between meetings.





In my In-Box

Owen had told me he had been invited up with some old mates to the Snowy Lakes for a bit of boat fishing. His suggestion that they drop him to a shore to permit some fly fishing came to nought, but he reported two a bit over 30cm on the trawl.





Even better was his friend Andy's 5lb around 60cm.

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.

[Federal Senate Investigation into Feral Horses](#)

MAS had made a submission – read it and others plus learn more about the investigation.

[Update to our 'Useful Links' Page](#)

Some links had been broken.

[MAS Receiving Some Larger Fish](#)

Queanbeyan Angling Club have released 250 larger fish in our neighbourhood.

Stuff You May Have Already Read on our [Facebook Page](#)



If

you are on Facebook, you should consider "liking and following" the [CAA Facebook page](#).

For those of you who don't subscribe to Facebook, click on headings below to look at the post – you don't need to join Facebook. Facebook is a fast moving medium so I'll only be putting stuff here in *Burley Line* that is of a longer-term interest – often that'll mean nothing in any particular month, but I'll keep the placemaker.

Other News

Additional news and links from supporting groups



NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

Remember you can subscribe to the Newsletter (*Freshwater Fisher*) yourself, there is a link in every monthly newsletter. Previous CFA newsletters can be accessed [via their archive](#). They also have a presence on [Facebook](#). The [key correspondence](#), a useful calendar of events and recent videos are on their website.

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

June issue is [here](#). Key points:

- Bass and estuary perch season closed
- Trout season closure reminder
- NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers AGM 19 August 2023
- Preview of the next Trout Strategy

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](#).

June issue is [here](#). Key points:

- RFA's meeting with Minister Moriarty
- NSW Trout Strategy – some notes from a brief on the current draft
- 2023 Winburndale Trout Muster – relocate several hundred brown and rainbow trout from the Winburndale Dam and the stream above, to the Mill Pond at Portland

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

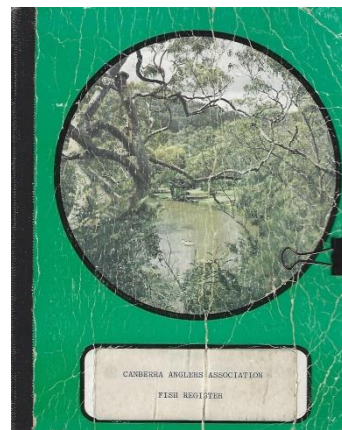
Provided for your calendar planning, members can see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest 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. 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/

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
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Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at
<https://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au/>

Burley Line contributions to:

burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au

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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.