

THE BURLEY LINE



From the Editor's Desk

Here we are in the depths of winter and fishing reports looked to be pretty quiet, then a bunch arrived. So, I've got many thanks to Roger for assisting by providing us with his next report from his round the world fishing adventures, this time from Nova Scotia. Jason with his latest post card from the USA. Much appreciate Lyall's assistance in seeking permission from ACTFF member Des Cannon and ACTFF Newsletter Editor Brett Leyshon to reprint an article from ACT Fly Fishers *Flylines*.

A short snippet from Peter is here too, plus the prolific Internet observations from Greg S – don't forget guys you can email articles for *Burley Line* anytime. Peter's brown trout (photo sent by Mark S) is a beauty.

The Committee has been busy. I've been given a sneak preview into the forthcoming outings program – they still had not locked in organisers for two events, Saltwater 17-19 Nov at Tuross and a Tumut trip 17-19 May (may be finalised before this edition is published but I'm sure they'd welcome offers). They have also almost completed a full fly tying program for the 2023-24 period. Much will be revealed at the AGM.

Coming Events

Meeting: 9th Aug.

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom. This is our AGM folks. Come along and help shape the direction of CAA. Consider going onto the committee or becoming a council member. Not yet seen the invitation but there'll certainly be many trophies awarded, I hear of a possible lucky door prize also. If previous ones are a guide, there may be free nibbles, an extensive raffle and much conversation.

Fly – Tying 23rd Aug.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details via email but the fly will be Scintilla Stick Caddis and led by Claude.

Next Events

4-6 Aug, Bondi Forest Lodge. All details available from BJ. Some spaces are still available. The 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

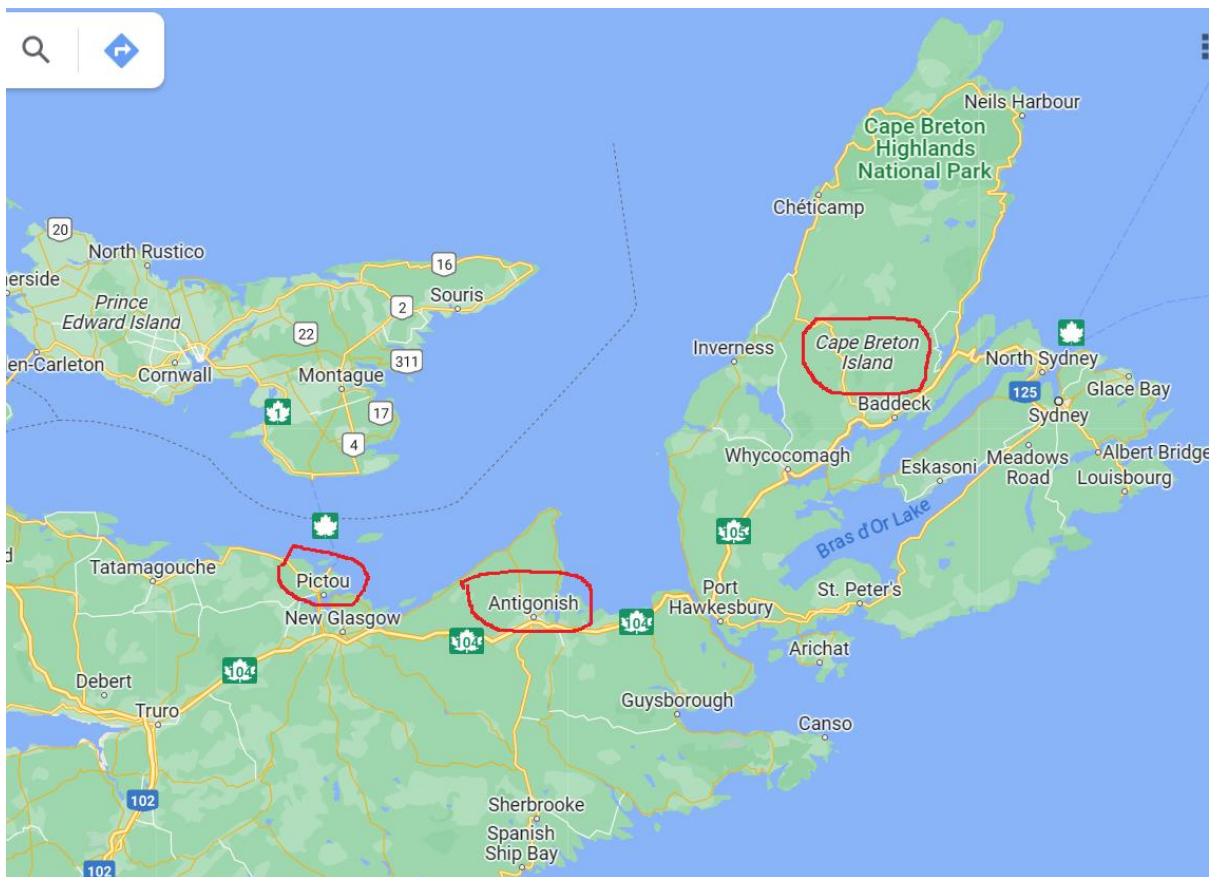
Part 3 of Roger's Round the World Fishing Adventure – Nova Scotia

Roger is currently in the UK but sent me this 'catchup' report. Also stored on our "Places" blog.

Roger

Unlike Labrador and Newfoundland, foreigners don't need to be accompanied by a guide to fish non-tidal rivers and lakes in Nova Scotia. This means that the only cost is an Atlantic salmon fishing license \$137 CAD annual, \$56 CAD 7 days and \$26 CAD 1 day. If you are going to fish for other species, you should also have a general fishing license which costs \$31 CAD annual or \$12 CAD 1 day.

The Atlantic Salmon seasons starts June 1 and runs until October 31. The main fishing areas are in the Gulf Shore area around Pictou and Antigonish and Cape Breton Island. The rivers in the Gulf Shore area are relatively small and can be fished comfortably with a single handed rod.



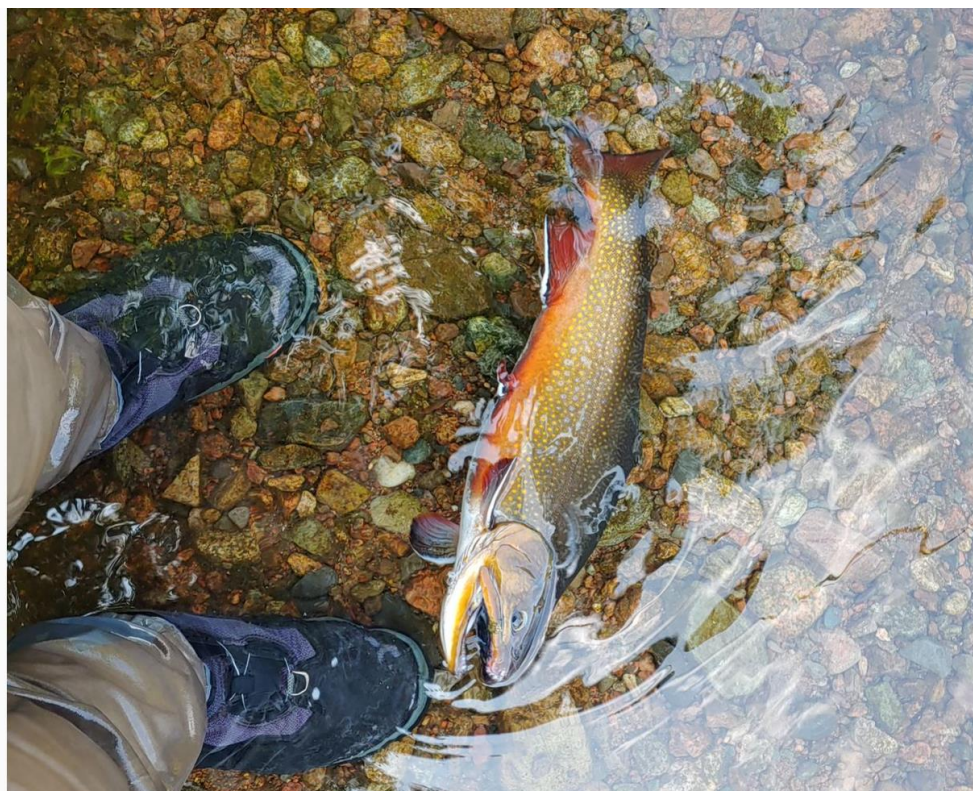
The most famous river on Cape Breton Island (and Nova Scotia as a whole) is the Margaree River. This is a large river and 2 handed rods give the best coverage. I was there for around 10 days in September and again in October. According to the locals the river was 'very low' for most of the time although by summer standards in the Canberra region (perhaps not recently) it still had plenty of water.

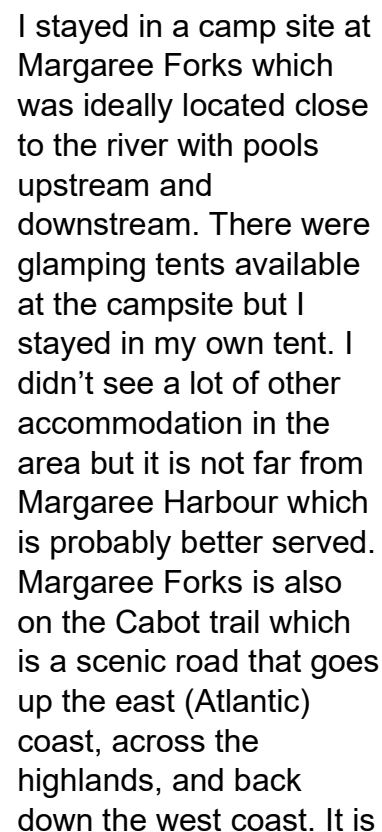


In general, Atlantic Salmon fishing is greatly affected by rainfall. In dry spells the fishing can be slow but picks up sharply after rain. For most of the time I was on the Margaree River, it was dry and I only saw a couple of fish caught. You could see groups of salmon in the river but it was very hard to get them to react to a fly. I did manage to catch a couple of

decent sized Brook trout around 3 to 4 lbs. According to the locals, fish of this size are probably sea run fish and you can sometimes see them mixed in with the Atlantic Salmon. We did get some solid rain a few days before I left on my second stay and I managed to hook a good sized salmon which unfortunately broke off.

The Margaree River is a beautiful river and is very popular with local and overseas anglers. You often have to share a pool with a few other anglers, but there is a rotation system in place whereby anglers fish down the pool then go back up to the top and start again. I'm told that it doesn't matter where you are in the rotation as a strike can happen at anytime. Most of the pools are named and there are parking areas on the road near each pool with a sign giving the name of the pool and a track down to the pool.





quite spectacular particularly in the Autumn.





The other notable river in Cape Breton Island is the Middle River which is quite a bit smaller than the Margaree but can apparently fish very well after rain.



All in all, Cape Breton Island is a nice place to stay and fish for a couple of weeks. I was told the fishing had been very good the previous June and July before the dry spell but it can probably be good any time if there is rain.

Tarpon on the Fly

Jason M

G'Day Y'all,

I finally got out for some fishing this year. I think I may have provided a quick article up in Pennsylvania at Valley Forge / Daniel Boon (or was it Davy Crockett?) homestead way back in April and some casting at Beaver Creek in Maryland in March. After a quick trip back to Eucumbene River in April, I did a trip in May where I had a sunset cast off a bridge and caught some small (assumed brook trout) micro fish, I think then I spotted a bear & cast to some rising fish as it got darker.



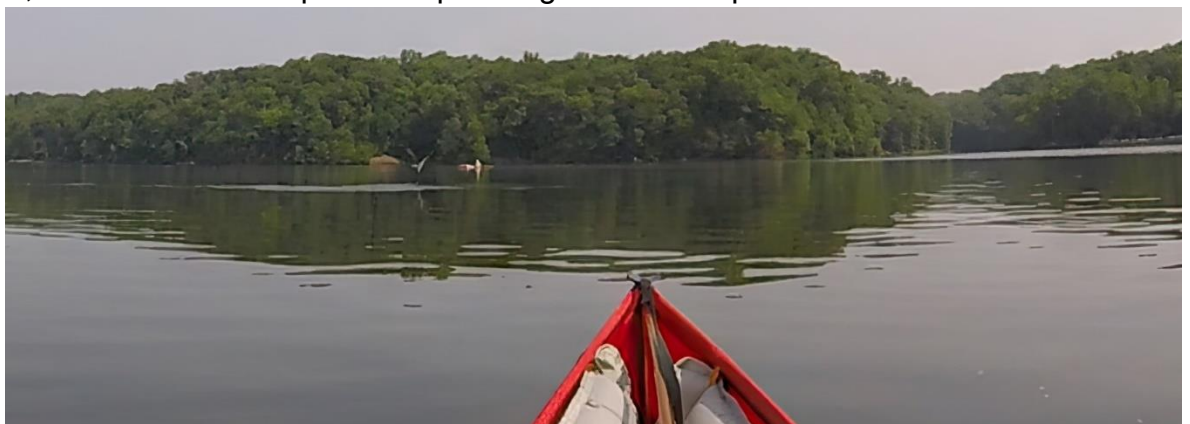
Gobblers on the go near the river



Deer

In June I finally put my kayak/canoe together for some local fishing, casting and trolling on some nearby water. From the map it wasn't clear if it had flow, but there was a reservoir below, and trout stocking above. I paid my launch fee, assembled my craft, and had a paddle. Definitely still water. I had reports that day of bass up high, and the following (after leaving my craft at the nearby archery clubhouse), of catfish deep in the ends of the bay. I saw some bass swim out under my kayak, but no real hook-ups. I was paddling out to a suspicious disturbance on the

surface, only to get 10 metres away and have an eagle bomb the school, pull out a fish, and later drop it! Great to watch



though – just a shame the GoPro missed the landing, and didn't have zoom. Probably somewhere to go back with some dry flies though.



My Pakboat at the ramp.

I returned to that May river spot in daylight more recently with a long weekend giving me a free day, and planned a fly fish where I could see where I was casting & hopefully get more flies in the water before losing them. Well, three flies later, I got one on the water (the gravel and grass must need a metal detector, although I did find one dry fly) and cast to the school of fish.

I had assumed I was in Brook Trout territory, with them schooling up and rising to hatches and terrestrials dropping from the trees – now much greener than winter and spring. I landed a couple of fish – more mullet looking. These turned out to be Shenandoah Tarpon.



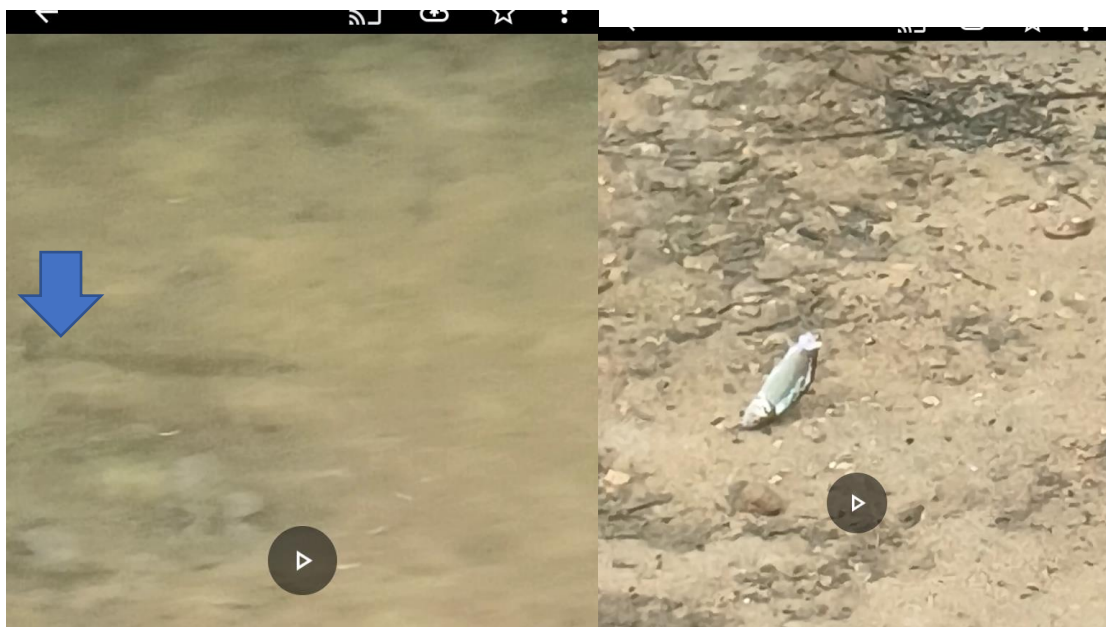
I cast a bit closer to the opposite edge, having been working the bottom of the pool (above a bridge). I landed what probably wasn't a tilapia but may have been an invasive species. They fought well, and had a bit more size – they reminded me of a bream, with a bit more iridescent blue under the eye (& wished I'd brought my Virginia Freshwater Fishing rules & guide with me).



These turned out to be bluegill. I was certainly in what the locals call 'warmwater species' area, with the trout keeping higher up. I wasn't far from the bridge I had fished earlier in the

year (just after the coronation, which surprised my friends that we had a King too), so the fish I lost was almost certainly another Shenandoah Tarpon.

I saw some splashing in the shallows to my left – was it an otter, or a water rat, or a snake? It disappeared, but seeing some movement shortly afterwards, I spied the tarpon being chased up in the shallows, similar to the whitebait in Predator. One fish had bitten off the tail of the tarpon, planning to come back and feast. I think my presence deterred it, and I was able to watch this (relatively) reasonable sized fish pacing the water trying to get in to finish the kill and eat its meal.



On the hunt, and NOT a tailing fish

It must have moved further out, as my cast back towards the overhanging branches on the opposite bank saw a good take, and I soon landed a nice fish. This turned out to most probably (and later confirmed) to be a smallmouth bass, rather than an invasive Alabama Bass that has

been present in the Shenandoah system (confirmed by my ol' Alabama fishing buddy). Upon return to the water, it resumed cruising off of my area still in hunt for some more tarpon.



Bass on the fly

I then headed upstream to check out possible brook trout sites, but with the main pools already having fly fishermen, and squirrel season finishing the day before, I made my way home after a fun day catching tarpon on the fly. By the way, apart from some cyclists I met that day saying there's regularly bears in the Graves Mill area, the WMA guide says it's a prime area to hunt black bears during the season due to the large population there & Shenandoah NP it joins. Mind you, there were already bears appearing in northern DC near Bethesda.

More on “What’s In a Name”

Reprinted from an article in ACT Fly Fishers *Flylines* written by ACTFF member Des Cannon with permission

Des Cannon

It was with some interest that I read the article on the origin of the names for Perisher Creek and Spencer's Creek, in the June *Flylines*. As someone who started skiing at Perisher in 1961, I have been going to the area for 62 years. These days, I go up there more to fish than ski.

In my Uni student days, I spent 3 summers working with Soil Conservation on the Main Range, living 12 days a fortnight in Soil Con Hut just below *Carruthers Peak*, above Blue Lake. Carruthers was the NSW Premier when the Summit Rd was being constructed in 1909. I also spent a short stint working as a Seasonal Ranger at Sawpit Creek, where I was given the task at one stage of filing notes and photos relating to the naming of a lot of features in the Kosciuszko National Park. So, over a long period, I was exposed to tales from locals and written information about the topic.

I must confess I have never thought of this as a topic for an article in *Flylines*, but reading the June Article I can see the relevance – we go up there often to fish, and knowing more about the

names of creeks and features gives more interest in the day's fishing, so here is my two bob's worth.

Starting from Sawpit Creek, which was the original headquarters for the Park, and which was also discussed in the article in June, you drive up past Wilson's Valley Motel to *Rennix Gap*. In the 60s there were two ski clubs on what is now the car park for the hiking trail. Rennix was the engineer in charge of the construction of the Summit Road to Mt K. One of the ski Clubs was Illawarra, and two of the original members were Pat Edmondson and his wife – if you stop at the KNP Visitors Centre at Jindabyne, many of the stunning framed photos for sale at the Centre are the work of their son Mike.

You next drive past *Sponar's Hotel*. The building there now was originally the servants' quarters for the Kosciuszko Hotel, which burned to the ground in 1951. Tony Sponar represented the Czech Republic in alpine skiing, and bought the existing building in about 1956 to run it as a hotel. Sponar and Charles Anton had in 1955 started the syndicate to establish a ski resort at Thredbo.

Climbing over *Dainier's Gap* (Sam Dainier was a shepherd in the area in the 19th Century) you then descend to *Wragge's Creek*, named after Clement Wragge, the meteorologist who manned the weather station at Kosciuszko from 1889 to 1902.

After passing the chain bay at Prussian Flat, you cross *Piper's Creek*, named after one of Jack Spencer's bullocks. Piper had a habit of escaping from Smiggin Holes over what became called *Piper's Gap* into Perisher, and on retrieving his bullock in a blizzard one day, Spencer is said to have stated "It's a real perisher up there!", hence the name for the valley. The following blizzard led to Spencer naming the next mountain in the chain as the "*The Paralyser*".

Crossing Perisher Gap on the way to *Charlotte's Pass* (named after Charlotte Adams, the first white woman to climb the summit in 1881), you first come to *Guthrie's Creek* (named after the geologist who did much of the study on the rock formations in the area), then *Bett's Creek*. *Mt Guthrie* is the peak just south of The Paralyser. Bett was the District Surveyor from Cooma who did the survey work on Summit Road. Bett's Camp (hut) (see photo) was located just after the bridge across Bett's Creek.

*Betts Camp – NSW
Ministerial Visit about
1914*



To the east (left of the road on the way up) is a glacial moraine, *David Moraine*, named after Edgeworth David, who was a member of Shackleton's Antarctic expedition.

I do have a lot more info on the naming of other features of the Perisher/Guthega/Kosciuszko area, but will limit myself at this stage to a few other anecdotes that are possibly not well-known.

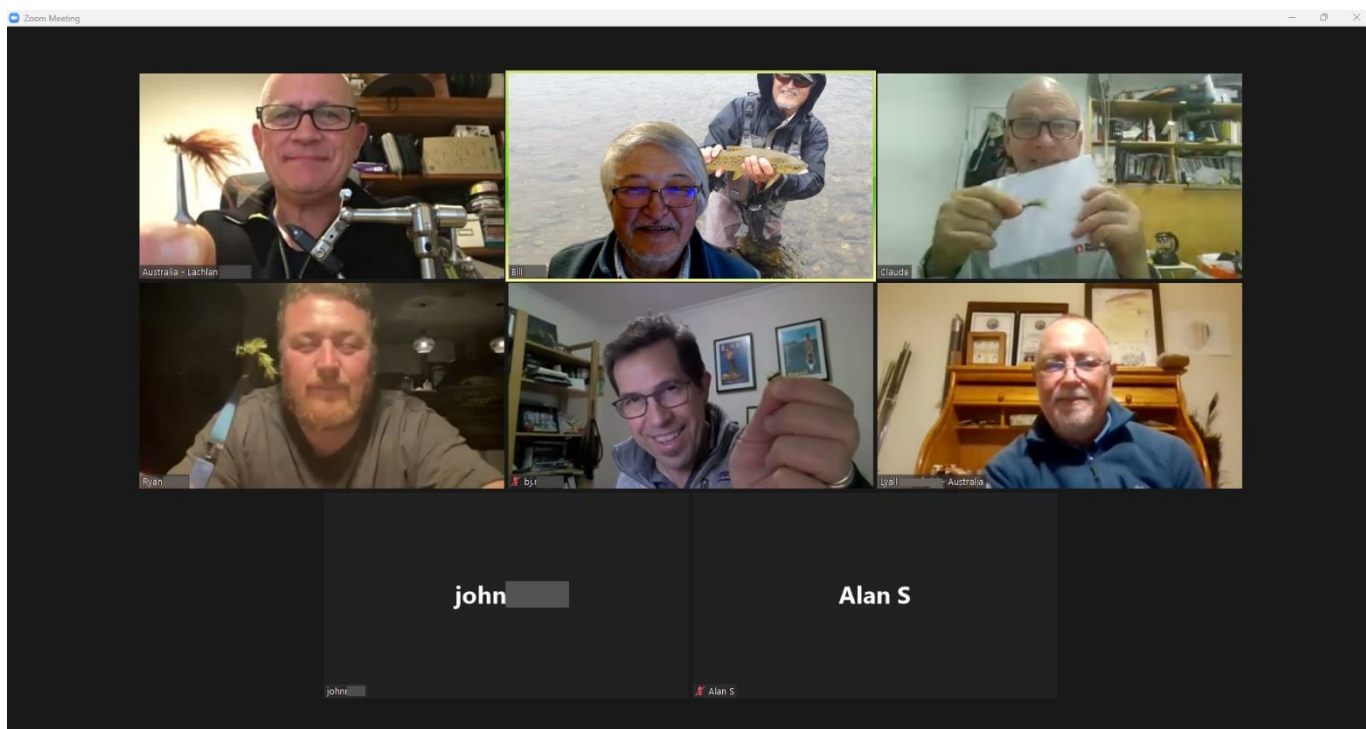
- Most would be aware that Kosciuszko was named by Paul Edmund Strzelecki, but an earlier explorer in the area was a D J. Lhotsky. I sometimes wondered if *Lhotse*, the mountain next to Everest, was named after this explorer, although Wikipedia says Lhotse is Tibetan for "South Peak".
- Next to Kosciuszko is *Mt Townsend*, named after a former Surveyor General for NSW; reading Strzelecki account of his ascent of Mt K, there is some conjecture that his description of the 'highest' peak is actually a description of climbing Townsend, and there is in fact only 50 feet difference in their heights. Indeed, when you stand on the summit, it is easy to think that Townsend is higher.
- When you next fish in the Snowy River above the crossing where the Blue Lakes walk crosses the Snowy, if you look to the south there is a semi-circle of peaks between you and the summit. These peaks, from left to right, are *Mt Clarke*, *Mt Northcote*, *Mt Lee* and *Carruthers Peak*. In the 1950s there was a rope tow up Northcote, and the concrete base for the rope tow is still there today. There was a mountain hut at the base of *Mt Clarke*, which opened in 1954 to provide housing for those using the rope tow (it was called Tow Hut). This was destroyed by an avalanche in 1956. A girl called Roslyn was the only person in the hut at the time, and she died in the avalanche. *Roslyn Lodge* at Thredbo is named in her honour.
- At the base of Carruthers, on the eastern side, is *Club Lake*. As a geology student in the 1970s I was interested in Geomorphology, and particularly in Glaciology. Blue Lake was certainly Australia's foremost glacial lake, and the glacier which formed the cliffs below Mt Twynham, and gouged out the lake, which is about 94 feet deep; the glacier created a glacial valley some 15 miles long, down through the Guthega Valley. There are tarns and moraines down the length of the valley. There is also evidence of a small "hanging" glacial valley to the east of Spencer's Creek and below the Charlottes Pass resort. *Club Lake* on the other hand, was not formed by a glacier, but is *nivational* – it was gouged by snow which did not become ice, and the lake thus formed was/is very shallow. See the photo below.



Jack Spencer's Cattle Grazing in Club Lake 1910

Fly tying 26 July

Ryan led the team tying the wiggly damsel nymph described in [our Fly Tying collection](#). Here is Claude's effort.



Trip Bloopers

Claude suggested this might be an idea for regular column – we'd welcome anonymous contributions. Two examples:

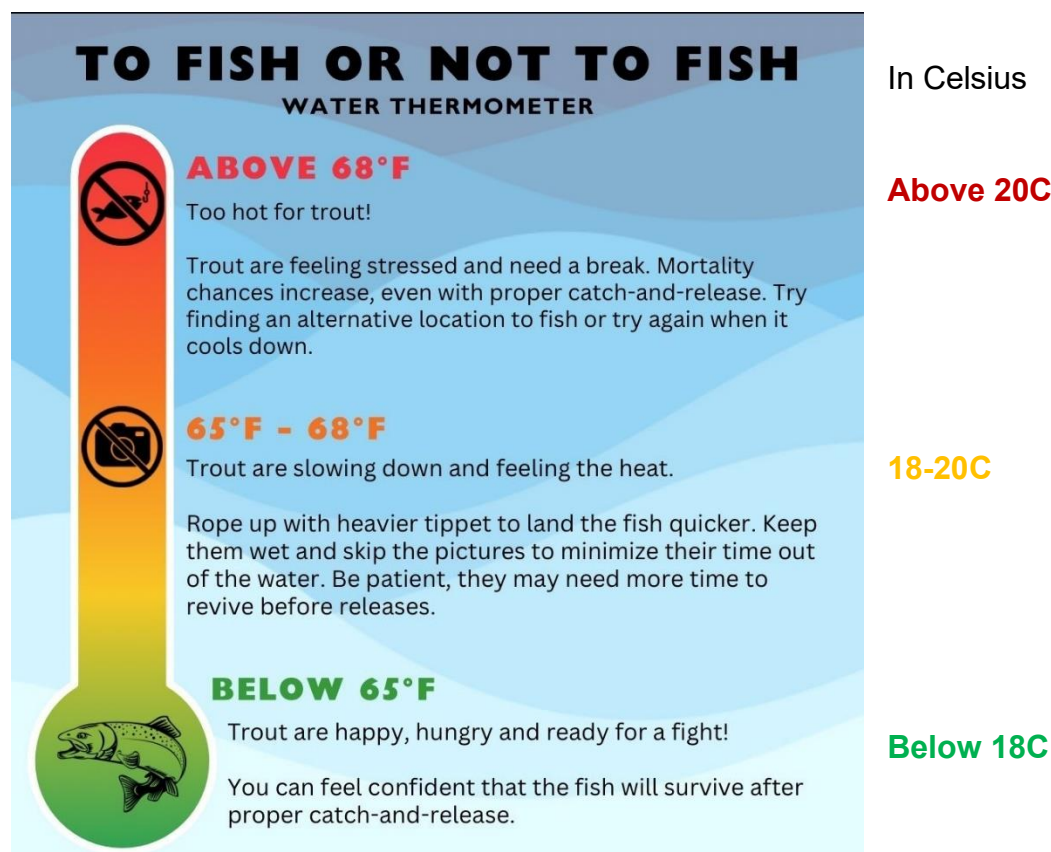
The time when two of our members were travelling around New Zealand in a campervan. The wet waders were relegated to a plastic tub so the carpet wouldn't get wet. This was initially placed under the van whenever they camped ... until the time they took off and puzzled over the plastic crunching noises coming from under the van.

Or

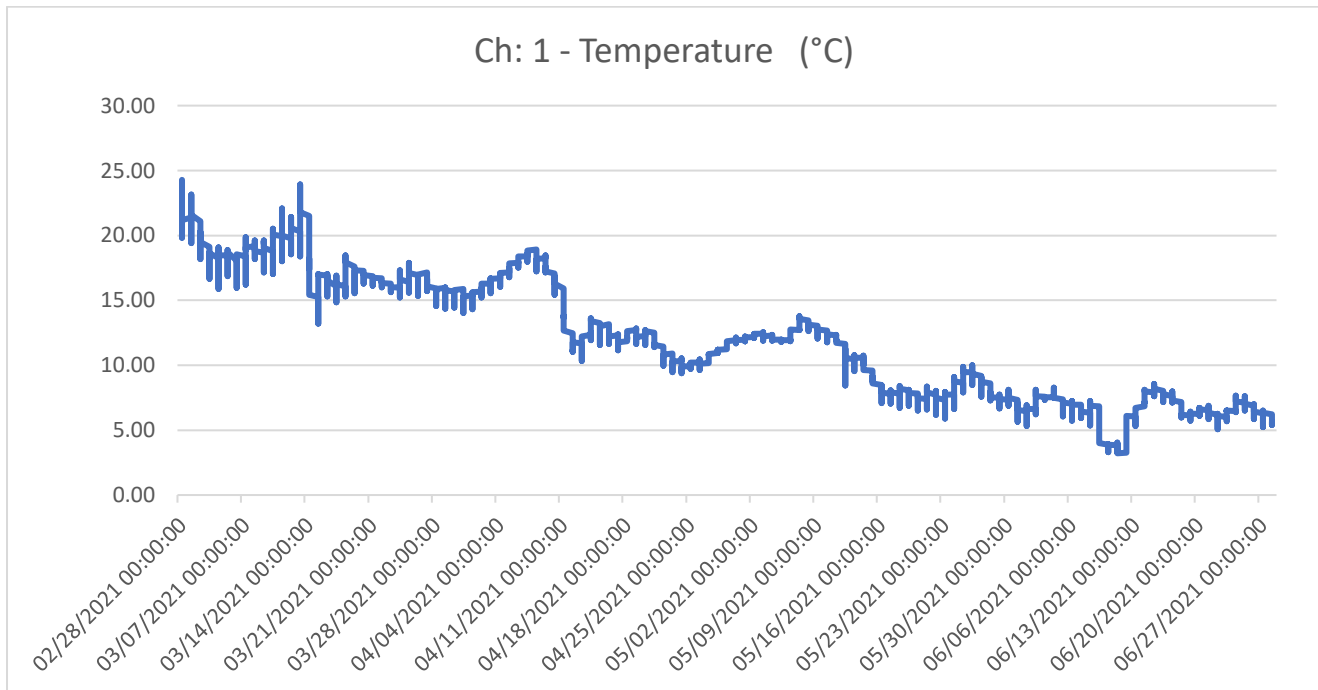
The time that one of our members had a painful shoulder – until he made a mistake climbing through and electric fence ... bingo, pain gone. However, he refuses all suggestions to do the same for his current sore shoulder.

In my In-Box

I joined the new social media channel *Threads*. There was a post from the US Trout Unlimited team discussing the impact of temperature on trout, and recommended angler response:



To put that into context, here is a temperature log from one lower Monaro stream near Nimmitabel from late summer into winter. Summer days would suggest not fishing during the hottest parts of the day.



Got this from Greg S. From Landline and Tasmania re Calamari:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-20/tas-rural-new-calamari-rules/102613568?fbclid=IwAR2dbhZlqO89UcprmqWZk8HV3n0gGPzSzdXViu9VTsnLaUZQK6O1X6nl6ml>

An exciting snippet:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-07-23/great-white-shark-cage-diving-controversy-port-lincoln/102504742?fbclid=IwAR3OUuDR8i81k6UlaTstbBFQ3n48ORkKmQxl6YJvftpY99Fw30oVYnkBwJc>

Not so sure about this one about Australian Salmon:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=797657661819659>

Peter sent me a snippet. Seems he subscribes to news from Local Land Services and they put a reminder about Travelling Stock Reserves:

Don't destroy their homes to warm yours

People looking for firewood during winter have been warned that collecting wood from Travelling Stock Reserves (TSRs) is illegal and fines of up to \$5,500 can apply.

While permits are available to collect firewood from selected state forests, LLS does not issue permits for wood collection. Removing either standing or dead timber is not allowed on Travelling Stock Reserves under any circumstances.

JM sent me a snippet. G'day! Well, I've walked the arms of United's Houston airport (domestic), only seen one cowboy hat, no sheriff badges to buy this time (but lots of NASA stuff), & as much lycra as in Reagan Airport (hopefully less in San Francisco as my next transfer).

Sashimi is served.... I guess this wasn't too far up the road from here. Photo is a bonito, for a future article.



My Brush With Fame. I am still able to read the ACTFF Facebook page and recently saw promotion for their next fly tying night.

The fly this week is a relatively easy one to tie and only requires three materials, which will be on hand if you haven't ordered them yet. The fly is the "Ngarigo Spinner", which is a fly designed by Peter Gibson. It is a recommended fly for the Monaro when there are large hatches of mayflies.

Indeed, this is the same Peter Gibson who I know, current President of the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers. He tells me "Yes, there is a chapter about me in 'Australia's Best Trout Flies' and it includes all 6 flies of the Ngarigo family, which covers all stages of the Turkey Brown mayfly: Deep Nymph, Drifting Nymph, Hatching Nymph, Dun, Spinner, Dusk Spinner. They should pay special attention to the Dusk Spinner when they are tying." Also, he says that the Drifting Nymph is the pick of them.



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quills and custom dub
from only the best
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Jason Q Recent Tying. Found on Instagram – my observation was that no self respecting barra would eat this, but JQ clarified he was tying in support of a Casting for Recovery program (not ACTFF apparently). Looks good.

Mark S's Photo. In my absence (at the movies), Mark and Peter went up during some pretty ordinary weather. Peter got a magnificent 61cm (over 6lb) very silver brown – his heaviest Australian trout. Well done mate. I understand it came with another 48cm brownie.



Some impressive visuals incl drone

<https://youtu.be/VHbOhaWbbyw>

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.

[NSW CFA Quarterly General Meeting and AGM](#)

This will be held on Sat 19 Aug via Zoom starting at 10 AM. CAA members can attend, leave a reply on the blog or contact me.

[The RISE Film Festival is Back](#)

Thursday, August 24 · 7 – 9pm AEST at Dendy Cinemas.

[Gaden Hatchery Report](#)

Some interesting news, including informative stuff on Tiger Trout developments.

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.

[DPI Report on Tuross Lake](#)

Typically Tuross is the site of our Saltwater Event and thus Saltwater Trophy.

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

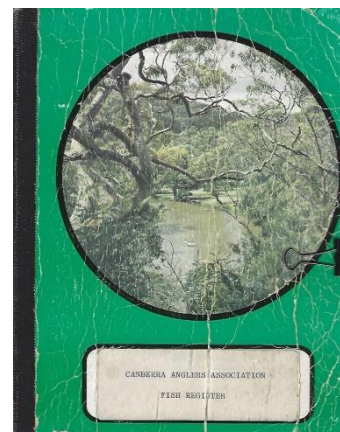
Provided for your calendar planning, members can see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest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

Dates	Event Details
Oct 2023	We can anticipate Go Fishing Day NSW version. https://gonefishingday.com.au/
5-7 Apr 2024	NSW CFA Interclub Meet – perhaps CAA can create a team
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

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.

The table is relatively empty given our trophy season ends at the July meeting. Start sending them in folks. Peter can't be the only one out fishing.

Angler	Species	Length	Method	Location/Event/ Date
Peter	Brown trout	61 cm (over 6lb! his heaviest Australian trout)	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 28 Jul 2023
Peter	Brown trout	48 cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 28 Jul 2023

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

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.