

# THE BURLEY LINE



**Rod with his Mulloway at Tuross**



# From the Editor's Desk

What can I say about Rod's mulloway – hmm, I did man the net 😊.

Well done to Ryan for organising an excellent event at Tuross – he even put on some perfect weather and lots of fish. Little did he know that organiser responsibilities extend to assembling the trip report for *Burley Line*.

The shirt and cap sale was a great success, except for my poor arithmetic. For those who missed out, the club does hold a few for sale – speak to BJ. Claude and I are considering whether to follow it up next year with some fancy dye-sublimate shirts. They are all the rage up North and maybe we could follow suit.

Just a reminder here for the few members who have not paid up their 2023/24 subscriptions. Recall that to be covered by our public liability insurance you have to be financial. All the information on rates and how to pay are [here](#).

We're coming towards the end of the year and gives me pause to think – 2024 will be my 20<sup>th</sup> year producing this newsletter. It has been a pleasure, but I will likely need some assistance next year due to family travels. Anyone want to help out?

I probably won't produce a January edition, but if you have some stories to tell, feel free to email them into me. If there is enough copy I'll put out a 'holiday edition', otherwise, my plan would be to put something out early February.

The December meeting by the lake will be the last until 14 February, but Claude will gather the keener anglers to chase the feisty carp on 14 January. If I don't see you at the barbeque, all the best for the festive season, take care on the road and don't forget to slip/slop/slap.

## Coming Events

**Meeting: 13 Dec 2023.**

Our annual bbq by the lake starting 6 PM – more details were sent via email.

**Fly – Tying 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024.**

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details in due course via email. Fly Tying – Foam Hopper. Leader TBA.

### Next Events

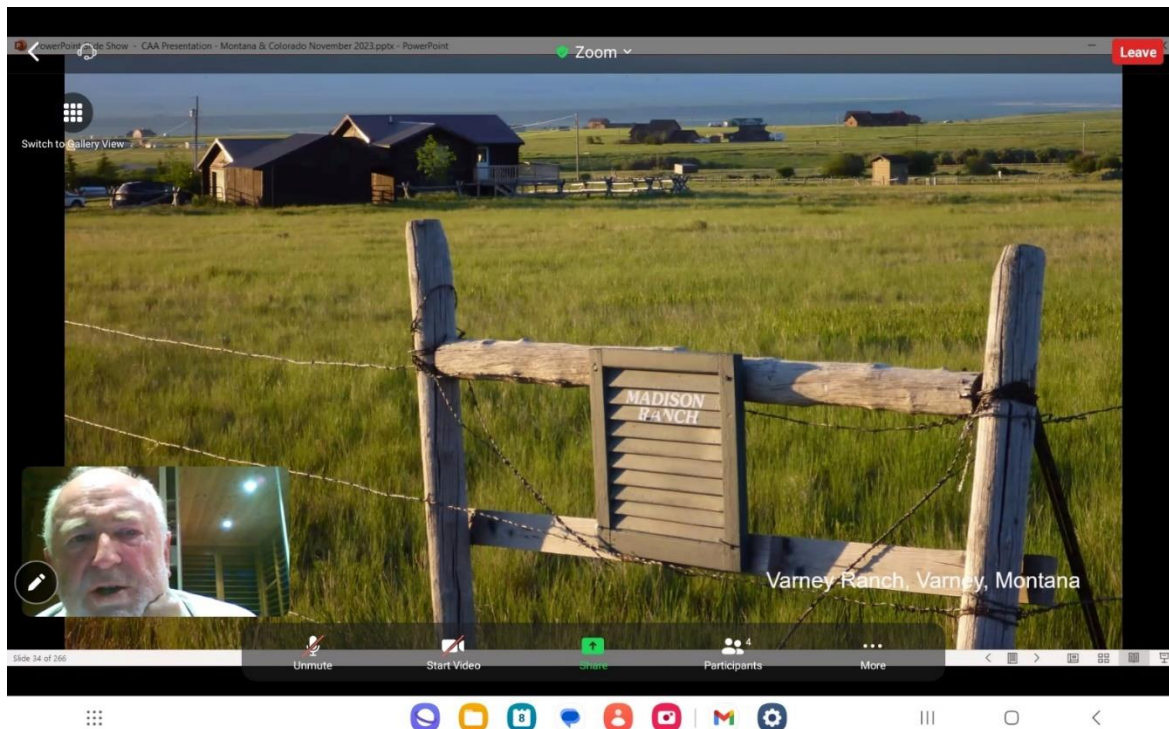
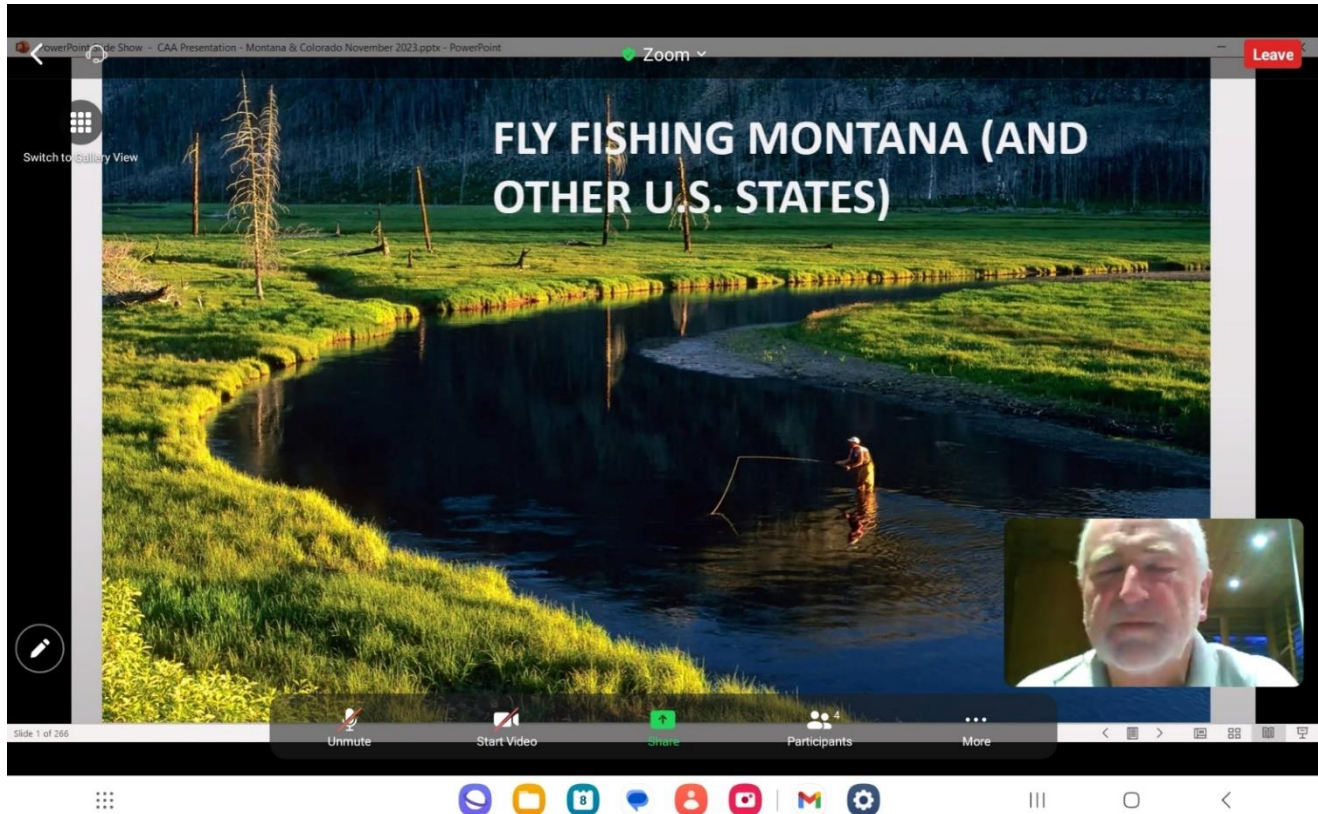
**14 Jan 2024** – carp bash led by Claude – more details in due course via email.

**23-25 Feb 2024** – Jindabyne with Bill – more details soon as bookings will need to be made early Jan. Feel free to email me if you want to lock in a bed now.



# Wed 8 Nov Meeting Talk – Neil Nelson on Montana etc

Much appreciated Neil sharing his experiences. Some screenshots.





PowerPoint Slide Show - CAA Presentation - Montana & Colorado November 2023.pptx - PowerPoint

Zoom

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MADISON RIVER – the “The Fifty Mile Riffle”

Slide 45 of 266

Unmute Start Video Share Participants 4 More

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Firehole River

Slide 103 of 266

Unmute Start Video Share Participants 4 More



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Gallatin River below Big Sky

Slide 115 of 266

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PowerPoint Slide Show - CAA Presentation - Montana & Colorado November 2023.pptx - PowerPoint

Zoom

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Switch to Gallery View



Cutthroat Trout

Slide 139 of 266

Unmute Start Video Share Participants More

## LESSONS LEARNED

- There are 350 million people in America - don't expect to be on a river by yourself.
  - Americans love to nymph – they find a spot/ hole and stand there all day; you need to get used to it.
  - The concept of fishing upstream is alien to a lot of Americans; expect someone to walk DOWN on you fishing a streamer or nymph.
  - The holiday period is between July 4 (Independence Day) and September 1 (Labour Day) - fishing is quieter outside these times.
  - The fish are generally not large – you need to get used to it.
  - The rivers can have large populations of fish per mile - fishing can still be challenging.
  - Fly shops are a mine of information - use your Australian accent.
  - America has things that have fangs and claws and hide in the bush - be prepared.
  - Yellowstone is amazing; the traffic isn't. Yellowstone rangers are equipped with pursuit vehicles and actively police speed zones.
  - Highway traffic is excellent - general traffic speed is 70 mph (112 kph); highway is 80 mph (128 kph) - we were travelling at 90 mph (144 kph) and were being passed. There are only seven State troopers throughout Montana policing speed.
  - Out West, most people are well mannered in their vehicles.
- 
- Food is very cheap; servings are huge - most food is bland and tasteless. American "cheese" is bright yellow!
  - The beer is generally good, with a big increase in micro breweries, particularly in Bozeman. Coors and Bud, particularly "light" are D-R-E-A-D-F-U-L !
  - If you like a hamburger you will be in heaven.
  - Fuel is approximately the same as Australia.
  - The number of fly shops is staggering; the range of equipment and fly tying materials is equally so.
  - Americans are big on their entomology; BWO's, Callibaetis, PMD's etc. etc. Observe and match the hatch with what you have. Mayfly or Caddis or Terrestrial – grey, brown, black.
  - Do at least one drift - \$500.00 for the two of you plus gratuity. A massive lunch and drinks are included.
  - Do your research and have a plan - books, internet.
  - The number of rivers and creeks is staggering, from small mountain creeks to large rivers. Some spring creeks such as Nelson, DuPuy and O'Dell attract a rod fee per angler.
  - Visit the SIMMS factory in Bozeman.
  - Visit the Winston factory in Twin Forks.
  - Get used to being called "sir" and being asked "you're not from around here".
  - Get used to being told that Australia is on their bucket list; from anglers, that NZ is on theirs



# 17-19 Nov Coast Event at Tuross

Ryan

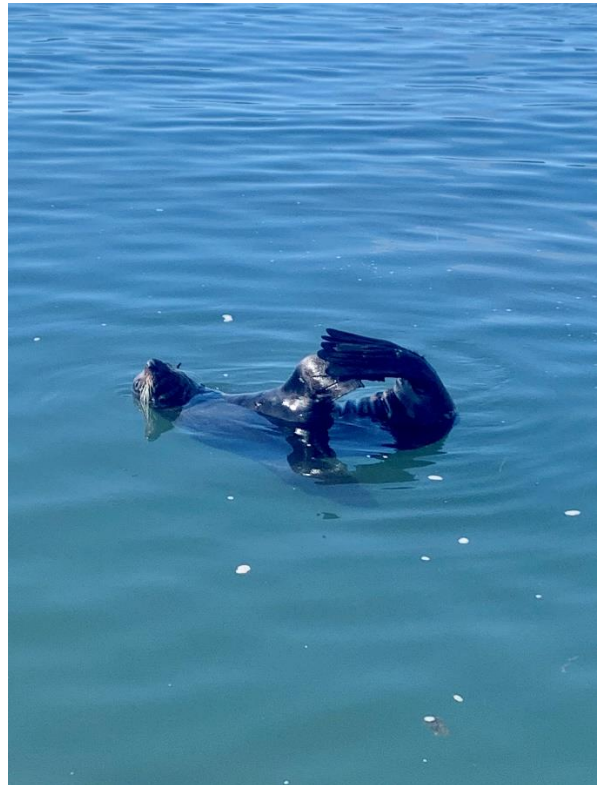
My trip to Tuross started on Friday morning, I woke to my daughter, very excited for me to drop her off at daycare, and a bunch of packing to do. After I had dropped Charlotte off to daycare, I picked up my father (Tom) and we loaded his gear into the car, headed back to my place and began the real packing. It only took a short while to load up our provisions for the weekend (consisting mostly of beer and a couple of bottles of whisky :D) then load up the boat for her maiden fishing trip, and we were on the road!



It was a great drive, with the only hiccups being a bit of roadworks, and we made it to the Air B&B by about midday, quickly dumped our gear and headed straight for the boat ramp. The weather was fantastic, with low winds and bright sun, it was looking to be a great day.

We met with Paul, who was joining us in the boat for the weekend, and started our days fishing with a quick stop to the Boatshed cafe for a bite to eat. Once we finished our cheeseburgers (they were delicious by the way) we decided to start fishing right in front of the Boatshed, in some deeper water with some nice shallow edges and plenty of activity on the sounder. It wasn't long until the first fish hit the deck, a small flathead caught by Paul, and the excitement continued from there, with a steady stream of fish coming to the boat throughout the afternoon. I caught our largest

fish for the trip that afternoon, a flathead of 54cm, and immediately regretted not having a larger net, unfortunately though, we didn't need anything bigger. There was plenty going on at the lake, schools of bait at most spots we stopped, people fishing everywhere and even a rather friendly seal! All in all, it was a great start to the outing.







Saturday was a very similar day, weather wise, with a cool morning that quickly turned to a warm day. The fishing for me however was not as fantastic, as it took a while to land my first fish of the day, while Dad and Paul were pulling them in by the bucketload! I finally broke my drought with a small flaty and the day got better from there. We did a fair bit of scouting around for potential monster flaty holes, fished a tiny creek full of tailor and ventured into the estuary for

some more exploring. Again there was a steady stream of small fish hitting the deck but the standout for the day was Dads 50cm flathead, caught on his faithful "prawn" soft plastic lure. I tried catching a fish on the fly, without any success and then much like the day before, we hit the Boatshed for some lunch and some fishing, hung out with Sammy the seal, then retired to the Air B&B for a wash and some rest before a lovely dinner with everybody at the local club.



Our final day began early as I was hell bent on catching a fish on fly, only to be left disappointed again as the wind began to creep up throughout the day. We tried to entice a jewfish from some deeper water using hardbody vibes and metal blades after Rod had told us all about his awesome catch the day before, however those unicorns eluded us. I did manage to catch an octopus, although I don't think that'll do me much good as a trophy contender XD.

We ended the day at around 10AM, with a few fish landed between us and a full belly from (surprise!) the Boatshed, returned to the Air B&B, packed up, tidied up and hit the road.

I was very happy that the trip went smoothly and everybody enjoyed themselves. I am thankful to all of you who attended and it was a shame that a few could not join us, but there is always next time! I'm very excited to organise another trip and cannot wait to get amongst some more top notch fishing with top notch people!

### Paul

Many thanks to Ryan for organizing this weekend getaway. It was a great weekend away with much frothing in the days prior to the trip. It was Ryan's inaugural trip for his boat (yet to be named) and he was joined by his Dad, Tom and me as his crew.





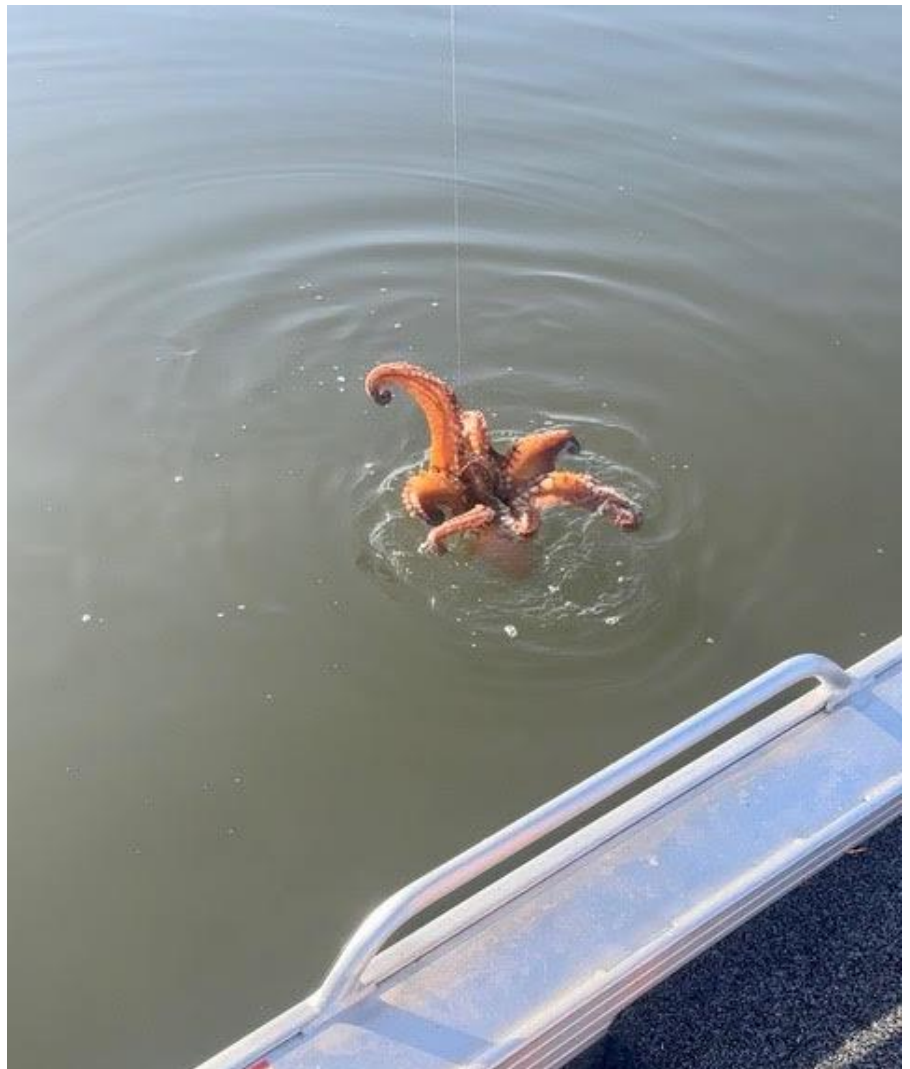


We fished three from this little boat and there was not one punch thrown in the entire three days, although there were several occasions when weighted clouser minnows wacked into Toms head that were grounds for retaliation. His years in the navy has shown him how to gracefully accept

humiliation. The fishing was a bit quiet but we did manage a steady stream of small to medium sized flathead to grace the overtly little net that Ryan had brought. I don't know what we would have done if we had to land a significant fish like Rod got. The comradery between all the members of the group was great and many laughs were shared throughout the weekend. Tom starred with his incredible effective flick prawn and he cleaned up using this deadly lure. Ryan lost all his points when he managed to hook a large octopus on a vibe! He regained his points when he managed to unhook this creature without bringing it on board.

As for names for his boat, I would suggest \$1.04 as one option. (This was Tom's assigned nickname for the trip. It reflected the odds we gave him on making an unplanned swim from this little rail less boat.

The other option is HMS Octopus. Rather regal I think.





## Rod

The weekend was a chance to test out my new tinny with other fishers on board and it passed with flying colours. The casting deck, comfy seat, console, electric start and tilt on a 50hp 4stroke was a dream compared to clunky old manual two strokes I used to chase crocodiles in up north. And the GPS 'anchor' function on the Minn-Kota electric motor is an absolute winner - allowing us to hold a spot without the hassle of anchoring each time.

Friday I launched upstream of the highway bridge on the Tuross River and headed up to Bumbo creek and the lake to try out some new saltwater flies. First cast scored a mid-sized flathead. I switched to soft plastics after a while and scored several hits and eventually another mid-sized



flathead. Mostly I was out to test out the boat so I chased some schools of mullet for a bit then called it a day.

Saturday morning I fished downstream areas of Tuross lakes and picked up several flathead on lure. Bill joined me after lunch at the waterfront cafe and we had a convivial and productive afternoon tossing lures around. We had both picked up several flathead until I switched to a new blade lure to jig in a deeper hole. First cast I was hooked onto something large that took several minutes to bring in to view. It was my first jewfish in southern Australia and a healthy 62.5cm - absolutely a personal best.

*(editor: see our Cover Photo for this month)*



Sunday saw Ray Carney, Bill and me tossing soft plastic lures into the bottom of the tide in the lower reaches of the lake. Each of us picked up a flathead on our first cast into a great spot where waters of the sandbar drained into a narrow channel - the classic flathead spot. Our early success made Bill despondent as he figured the rest of the day would be fishless. As it happened Bill had reason to remain happy as we continued to land flathead for the rest of the morning - with Bill adding a flounder to the species count. Each of us was moderately successful with an aquarium-sized fish but Bill won out with the smallest - size undisclosed but it was at least twice the size of his lure.

In all a great weekend and one to keep on the CAA calendar. My thanks to Ryan for making it happen.

## Ray

Saturday was day one for me so I took my Hobie 12ft Pro Angler for a run across the sand flats targeting whiting with small surface poppers. Sadly no success. Coming back to the boat-ramp jetty for lunch was quite the challenge given the tide was racing into the lake at a phenomenal rate. After lunch I decided to tackle the surf off the beach in front of the Lake Coila bar with some hard bodies, again with no success. Casting became difficult as the wind was a quite strong easterly.

On the Sunday I joined Bill and Rod on Rod's boat (much easier to paddle than the Kayak). After some tricky navigational manoeuvres we found some deeper water and off we went. All three of us hooked up on our first cast of the day. Bill was then convinced that that would be the end of it. I lost mine at the boat due to poor knot tying. I think Bill was the most prolific/successful fisherman for day followed by Rod. Bill also caught one suitable for the aquarium but insisted there be no photographic evidence.

The wind picked up again at the front of the lake so we sought respite further inland where I picked up my two small flathead for the day.

Finished up around lunchtime on Sunday to complete another great weekend at Tuross Heads.

## Bill

I had spent Saturday morning being minute secretary for a NSW CFA quarterly general meeting. It was with much relief and pleasure when Rod phoned to arrange to take me out in his swish new boat ... no 'tinnie' by my judgement. Well ... I had the privilege to observe Rod land a magnificent mulloway.

Surely amongst the best fish I've seen caught on the CAA Saltwater Event ... and an iconic species. Well worth the \$30 odd special, but fragile lure he'd bought from Nathan.

The afternoon saw me with some success using the magic softplastic as recommended by Steve Samuels. No evidence of any pelagic as the lure continued to come



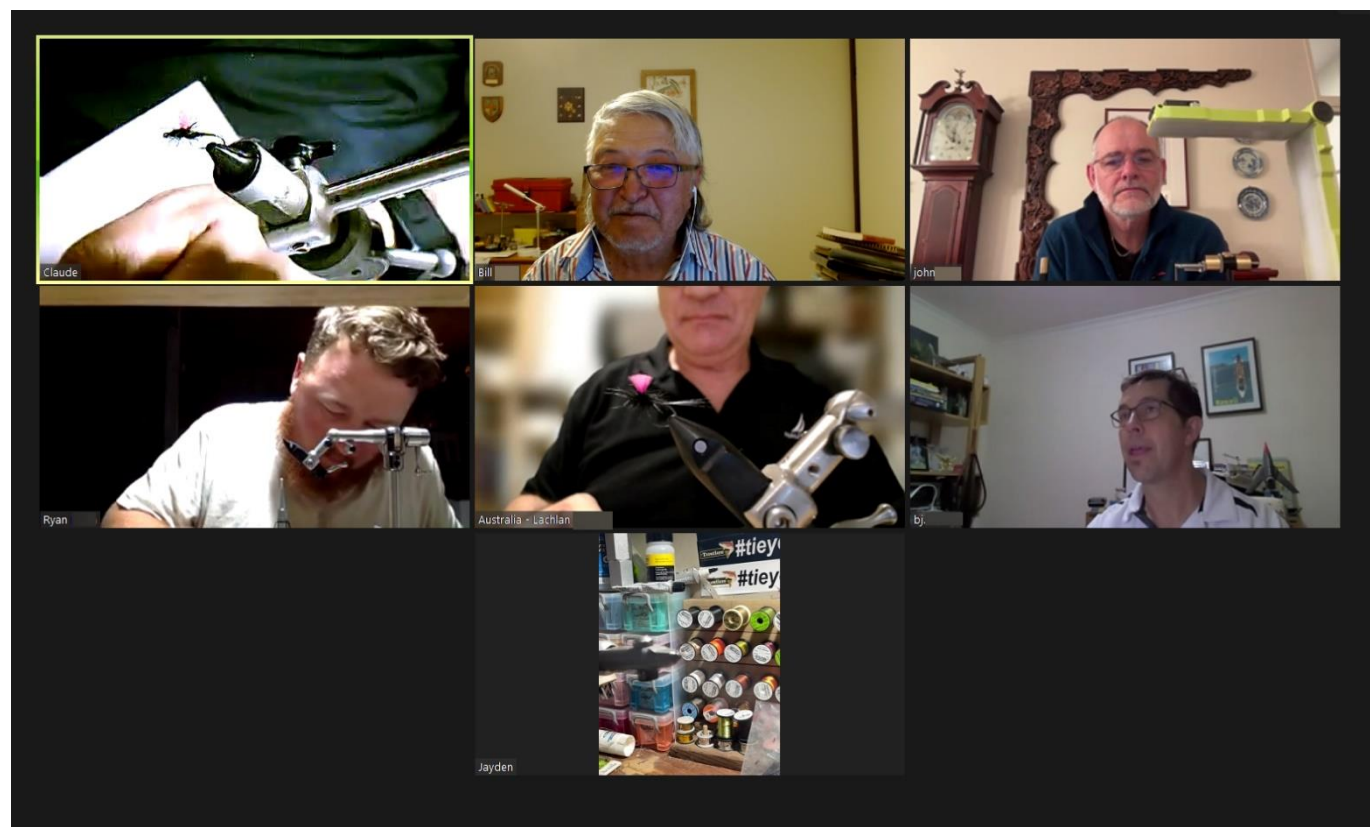


back undamaged when not attached to a flathead. Then came a number of bust-offs, examination showed that the braid was breaking easily by hand – clearly rotted and aged, later replaced at the end of the day.

The remainder of the weekend was a prolific harvest of flathead in various sizes. The best of mine that I had taken time out to measure was a goodly 43cm. Rod, Ray and me all had our best in that era, but the bigger competition was for the smallest - unmeasured but surely only 7cm? The sequence of flathead was broken by a sole sole - unmeasured due to a long distance release.

## Fly Tying 22 Nov – Hiviz Black Spinner

This was the example fly Claude had found on the web. More instruction in the [Fly Tying Blog](#).



Some outcomes on the night.



Claude



Claude



Claude



Ryan





Lachy's first dry fly with a post



Lachy. The glo brite isn't too bad if stuck for other post materials.



Lachy



BJ

## Queanbeyan River

Peter and I were asked to stock some brown trout fry into the Molonglo and tribs on Fri 10 Nov. Seemed like a good excuse to try for a short fish on the Queanbeyan River upstream of Captain's Flat. Bill had a missed strike on the dry in the first run but then landed a good fish on the dry dropper's nymph. Finished off the day with a smallish fish on the dry predictably in the well oxygenated water below the low level bridge. Peter had a quieter day with a miss on the Euronymph.



## Gudgenby River

Ryan had a rostered day off and needed someone as a safety companion. Have rarely been known to knock back an invitation to wet a line if I've got an empty day, so it was on.

I much appreciated the great, but tiring, day. Haven't worked that hard since Donkin took me into mountain goat territory on the Thredbo :) Ryan's antics with the goanna was very entertaining especially when it tried to bite him in the lower abdomen.

As usual, the young gun prevailed. I might have had the honour of landing a small brown before he got his mojo, but Ryan's choice of dry dropper proved much more successful than my



selection of the ever faithful Parachute Adams. Jaime will give a wry smile when I say that later in the day I actually tied on a squirmly wormy – Ryan threatened to make we walk home so it was quickly removed.





# In my In-Box

Popped up in my Facebook Feed



<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/GKvrcB2CroAyW4oG/?mibextid=xfxF2i>



From Peter

"Fertiliser caught a few minutes ago on the goldfish fly. Really gave me a run and weighed 2.5 kg according to the lip grippers"



## 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 a 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.

### [Community Survey about the Upper Murrumbidgee River](#)

A short survey into community understanding of the river. This is to inform the Australian River Restoration Centre advocacy activities.

## 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.

### [Paul's Youtube video about Lyle Knowles](#)

Paul Mc's video looks very professional.

## 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– only the equivalent of \$0.50 per week.

[November edition](#) arrived. Key items:

- Draft Trout Cod Action Plan
- Aerial shooting to reduce feral horses.
- Koi Herpes Virus delayed
- New President for NSWCFR
- Beware Google Search taking you to commercial sites for fishing licences
- Murray cod still closed season
- Fears for more fish kills on the Darling
- Calls for citizen scientists on eDNA conservation – using DNA in water looking for threatened species



## 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.

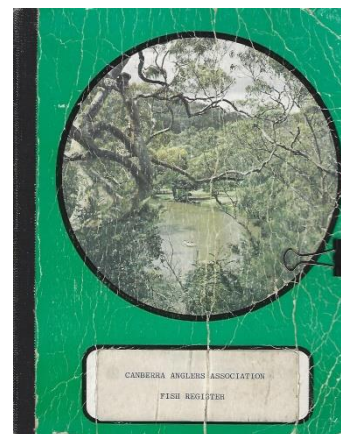
# Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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
various	The NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne are in hiatus while the refurbishment program is in train. However there are also saltwater and freshwater events across the state. <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>

## 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	Brown trout	61cm (over 6lb! his heaviest Australian trout)	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 28 Jul 2023
Peter	Brown trout	48cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 28 Jul 2023
Bill	Rainbow trout	37cm	Dry Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge trip, 4 Aug 2023
Bill	Brown trout	44cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 13 Aug 2023
Bill	Brown trout	57cm	Fly	An unnamed river on the Monaro, 1 Oct 2023
Peter	Golden Perch	38cm Scores 23% on our <a href="#">Native Fish Assessment</a>	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong, 8 Oct 2023
Jayden	Rainbow	33cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Ryan	Rainbow	33cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Jayden	Rainbow	33cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Lachy	Brown trout	31cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Bill	Rainbow trout	29cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Peter	Redfin Perch	40cm	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong, 31 Oct 2023



Bill	Rainbow trout	31 cm	Fly	Queanbeyan River 10 Nov
Rod	Mulloway	62.5cm	Lure	Tuross Lake – Coast Event – 18 Nov
Bill	Flathead	A number at 43cm	Lure	Tuross Lake – Coast Event – 18 Nov

## Contact Us

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

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*Capital Fly Casting*

[www.capitalflycasting.com](http://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). 2023/2024 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.