

# THE BURLEY LINE



**In the Brindabellas**



# From the Editor's Desk

Since our Christmas barby the club has been understandably quiet. We hope your Christmas and New Year went well.

Our cover shot this month is our little friend from the North – we'll make a dry fly fisherman out of him in due course. More of this inside.

Many thanks to Greg S for his contribution – the videos he finds are always entertaining. I've got a report here on the somewhat controversial stocking of Trout Cod in one of our favourite rivers. Ryan has had some success – if you don't already do so, consider following him on Instagram. A report on the club carp event is here – was fun for those who participated. Two reports from Tumut, though a little bird tells me that Lake Eucumbene is going off at dusk too – mudeyes seem to be the fly of choice after dark replacing caddis during the day. Finally, an excellent report from Claude, BJ and Travis on Yaouk fishing. Great to see they had success on dry, especially the black spinner that was the subject of a recent fly tying night. So good when these self-tied flies bring home the goods. Roll on the hopper next fly tying.

With my Membership Officer hat on ... there's still a few, what I would call 'regulars', who haven't paid their 2023-24 subs. Note that public liability coverage when on CAA events is contingent on being a financial member.

## Coming Events

**Meeting: 14 Feb 2024.**

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom. More details 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 – Commonwealth Hopper. Leader is Claude. [See blog post](#) or read the promotion later in this newsletter.

### Next Events

**23-25 Feb 2024** – Jindabyne with Bill – emailed details have been sent. Bookings need to be made early Feb so reservations officially closed 21 Jan.

# A Day on the Thredbo

Ryan



After a slow start to the New Year, I had decided to make my first trip into the mountains for 2024 a good one. A break in the rain, warm temperatures, low winds and clear skies, meant that I'd be in with a chance to catch a fish or two. So, I packed the car on Friday night, eager to set out early Saturday morning to spend a day on the Thredbo.

I awoke early (3:30am) Saturday morning and practically bounced out of bed and into the car to start the quiet drive to the river. After a painstakingly long trip, as all commutes are when

you are going fishing, I arrived safe and sound to an empty car park (much to my delight). I quickly threw on my waders, slid on my sunglasses, smeared sun cream all over myself, strung up the rod, slung on my pack and made my way down to the river.

It was a quiet walk, apart from the soft noises of the river and occasional birdcall accompanying me on my way downstream. But it wasn't long before I crossed paths with another angler, an older gentleman who was also fly fishing. We exchanged pleasantries and the obligatory "Any luck mate?" then I was on my way again, albeit slightly disheartened after learning that my fellow angler was having a "strangely quiet morning". However, there was plenty of time to lift my spirits again as I had a decent walk ahead of me. Upon reaching my destination, I crept into the water and made my first cast, and after a few more, I hooked up to my first fish of the day, a lively rainbow that took a liking to the stimulator I had tied the night before. My day had now begun.



A steady stream of small fish followed the first, with most of them taking the stimulator and some taking the size 18 nymph I had rigged up underneath. After tussling with some unruly scrub, catching (and losing) a few more fish and a couple of fly changes, I had arrived to a rather large pool. This particular pool has been known to have some larger fish lurking in its depths, the likes of which, had so far eluded me. The pool has a very slow outer edge that is lined with eucalyptus trees and thick scrub, making this area a hot spot for some dry fly fun!

Squeezing my way through the vegetation, I perched myself on a fallen tree that was partially submerged in the water, prepared my bow and arrow style cast, and waited for a hungry fish to swim by. It was exciting fishing and it did not take much time to get a few small brownies in the net. Not long after getting ready to cast at my next target I saw a brown trout, much larger than

the others I had seen in the pool, lazily making his way up the feeding lane. Excitement rose up in my gut as the fish came within casting distance. I let loose my parachute Adams and watched it gracefully land on the surface of the water, just in front of the trout. A short sharp turn of his



head in the direction of my fly let me know that he'd seen my presentation, and the game was afoot. The fish rose, inching closer to my fly and paused, for no longer than half a second, only to begin slowly descending through the water column, and away from my fly. Refusal. The bitter pill that all fly fishermen must swallow, made far more difficult by the possibility of a good fish. I was no stranger to this feeling and after a small sook, was back in position; ready to take advantage of the next opportunity that presents itself.

I was unprepared for said opportunity to be such a familiar one, as my eyes landed on the same fish that refused my presentation a few minutes prior. I felt a fire in my belly again, as I had a chance at redemption, another opportunity to shake hands with a good-sized fish. I released my fly again and it felt like time stood still as I watched the scenario in front of me play out. Fly landing, fish approaching, the pause and the refusal. I couldn't help but feel defeated, watching the largest brown trout I had seen all day swim away for the second time, and my mind began to list off all the reasons a fish would refuse a fly, and I decided to do the only thing I could do at this point. Persevere. So, I set to work tying an unweighted, size 18 pheasant tail nymph on a long dropper below my dry fly and with my new rig tied up, I was ready to fish again.



Much to my surprise, I looked on, as the familiar shape of my spotty, brown adversary came into view. Now I felt a different surge of energy in the form of determination. I slowed my mind, steadied my hand and played the role of the angler one more time, releasing my flies out onto the water to be inspected by the tricky trout. Much as he had done the first two times, I watched his attention shift to my Adams. He approached, paused and began to retreat into the depths again. However, this time, as he was descending through the water column,

his head moved slightly to the right and with a quick flash of white, I struck.

Feeling the weight of the fish on the end of my line, a smile worked its way across my face as the plucky brown shot under the closest submerged tree. This was far from over. With very few fish fighting options available to me, I leapt from my perch and into the water below, immediately lowering my rod tip to begin working the fish out from under the timber. As quickly as he went under, he was out, thrashing around, becoming airborne and making solid runs into the centre of the pool. I finally managed to get the upper hand and my prize was in the net.

Relief washed over me and my excitement exploded. I had done it, the fish that had avoided me time and again, was finally in my grasp. After a photo and a dodgy release video attempt, the trout was on his way again, swimming off into the cool, clear waters of the Thredbo River. My day was complete. I made the trek back to my vehicle with a smile on my face and a spring in my step. I stopped briefly to chat with a few more anglers (and share my excitement) and before I knew it I was fumbling around in my bag for my car keys. The drive home was a welcome rest for my legs and I was able to reflect on the experience I had gained from the day and the

lessons the river had to teach me; Patience, persistence, control, resilience, adaptability. These are all things a fisherman must practise to become a better angler, but they are also things that an individual must practise to become a better person. I went to bed that night very content indeed.

## Carp Event 14 Jan

### Claude

After three consecutive years of La Niña summers, the Bureau of Meteorology's declaration last September that an El Niño event was underway brought expectations of hotter and drier conditions through spring and summer. We all worried about what the coming trout season would be like. Well, it's been quite different hasn't it!

This year's Carp event was challenging with recent rains and warm weather causing 'blue green algae' in some of the local lakes and normal carp creeks flowing fast and a too dirty to do any sight fishing. BJ and Claude tried local ponds and streams around McKellar. We saw a couple of fish but weren't able to hook any.

Peter and Bill made the smart move by bait fishing in Lake Burley Griffin. Within a couple of hours they had around 10 fish between them, some of them up to 63 cm.



A few of us caught up for an afternoon chat at the Light House to discuss our successes and attempts at success.

For much of eastern Australia, summer has so far been marked by severe storms and floods that have battered parts of Queensland and Victoria.

### Bill and Peter

Peter headed to Lake Burley Griffin at our favoured spot near the Boathouse Restaurant arriving around 10AM. A number of text reports to Bill of three fish around 52cm were intended to cement Bill's attendance.



Bill finally arrived at 1PM and before he was fully set up Peter landed a substantial catch at 62cm (pictured). All fish were caught on bait using Charlie's patented rig, burley and bait. Circle hooks ensured solid hookups with these powerful fish.



What then followed was just under 3 hours of prolific fishing alternately being on, with 7 fish caught each in that session. Peter's best was 63cm. The fish seemed to come in waves: Peter hooking up and then often Bill finding we were in a double hookup. The weather was kind to

us and the short gaps between fish were a good chance to catch up after the festive season.

You should never depart while the fish are still biting but our social get together at 4:30 was more important and thus stumps were drawn and farewells made.

Thanks Charlie for your past guidance.

## Tumut River – Different Strokes for Different Folks

**Bill with some words from BJ and Claude**

With my departure for fishing a long way from Canberra imminent, Glenys convinced me we should have an extended weekend at Tumut – so much to visit, not least was my favourite brewery, Tumut River Brewing Company



As it happened, BJ and Claude were up there on the Friday and reported in just as I completed our van setup.



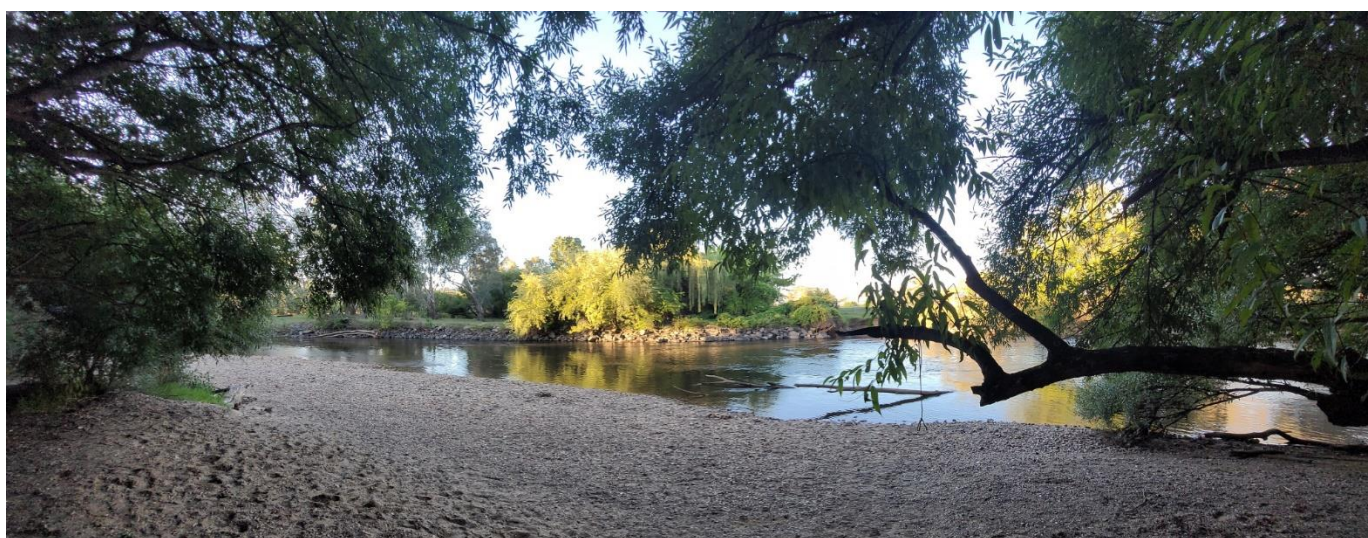
*A few photos of the Tumut below Blowering. We got 3 each on nymphs. 2 more each in the river up from the racetrack...all nymphs. Pink tags, pink squirmy and brown stonefly worked today. River was at approx 1500 ML/hr*

BJ was later to tease me by commenting that the Tumut was not known to be a dry fly river, but many of us who have stayed up at the Blowering Caravan Park (now the Snowy Valley's park?) for previous CAA events know that, just as the sun sets the fish rise everywhere. Claude also supported this premise "During the evening rise there were lots of dry fly action. We have also been told by a local fisherman that the dry fly action has significantly decreased since they started clearing willows on the river bank".





As it happened, I managed to land two out of four takes on the first night and similar on my last – let's not talk about how broken off leaders (on trees) can take you away from the critical few minutes that the rise lasts.



*Riverglade Van Park access to the Tumut.*

As sun dropped below horizon trout joined the platypus showing themselves by rising. Not the mad rise of those we've seen at Blowering van park and smaller fish but entertaining nevertheless.



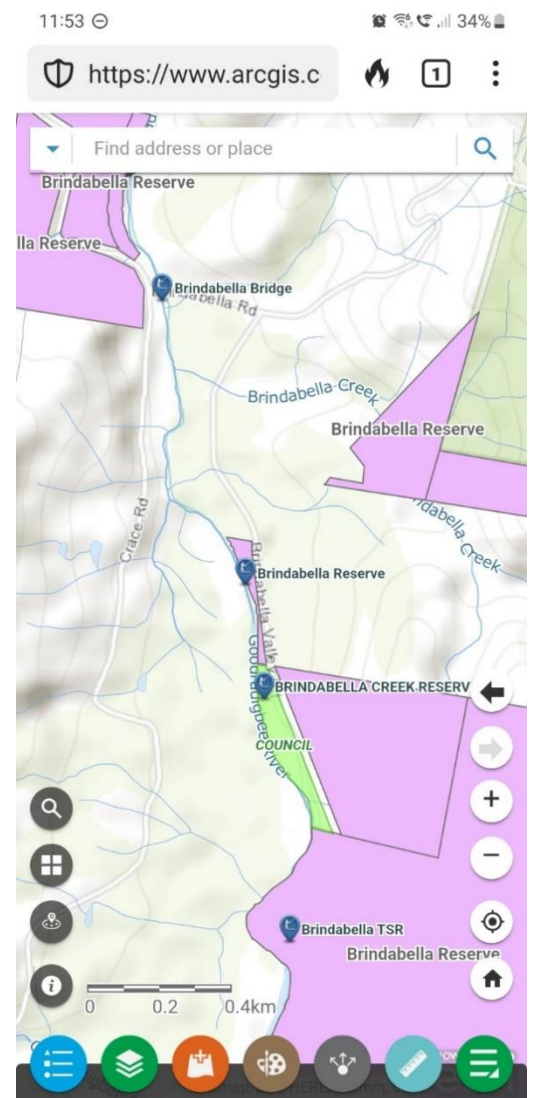


*Tumut Brewing Company excelled themselves again – here with Lyall's favourite pizza – local smoked trout – yummy.*

## Trout Cod in the Goodradigbee

### Bill

Peter and I were invited, along with other MAS members, to participate in DPI Threatened Species Unit's experimental stocking of Trout Cod in the Goodradigbee. While the majority of the fry were released downstream from the Tumut Road bridge (Flea Creek, McIntyre's Hut and vicinity) there were some stocked into two points above the bridge. These sites have been selected to avoid redbfin found in the lower reaches (concerns over predation) and Murray Cod (the desire to avoid hybridisation).





This is the third year they have been stocked here but so far there has been no evidence of survival – keep your eyes out folks.

Stocking of Trout Cod in this water, that for many years has been trout stocking waters, is somewhat controversial. The TSU has fears of predation by trout – though we would have similar fears of predation by the cormorants that seem to have moved into the area. At this stage there are no indications that trout stocking might be stopped, or that there'd be other actions to remove trout.





# Jason and Eli on the Goodradigbee

## Bill

Members who attended the end of year BBQ were able to catch up with past President, now Cairns resident, Jason and his son Eli. They were down here to introduce young Eli (now 6) to the joys of stream trout on fly. I joined them for an overnight trip to the Goodradigbee where young Eli had some great success. Had his first landed before me, and possibly more for the weekend – “not that hard to do” according to Peter.

I was really impressed that Eli was casting to actively rising fish with some giant dry flies. All this without having attended our fly casting days.



*Eli's first trout on fly*



# Upper Murrumbidgee and Three Amigos - January 24

Claude, BJ and Travis

Three amigos – BJ, Claude and Travis – decided to get away for a fishing trip before the dreaded return to work. We were fortunate to have access to some private property on the Murrumbidgee, downstream from Yaouk bridge. We travelled over the Brindabella's and were surprised by how green the surrounds were - more aligned with Spring rather than mid-summer.



We were delighted with the camping spot 10 meters from the river....and the fact that the lawnmower worked after only 3 start attempts. After setting up camp, we returned to Yaouk Creek (photo below) which looked like a Montana stream. Unfortunately the fishing wasn't as good as the creek looked. Only one fish was caught Euro style. We returned to the Murrumbidgee River at Yaouk bridge. We started fishing a couple of hundred meters upstream from the bridge. A combination of dry and dry – dropper fishing were prosecuted. Claude was successful with the Hi-Vis Black Spinner that was tied with the club in November. BJ was tussling a few trout not long after.





On day 2 we ventured to the upper Murrumbidgee on Bullocks Hill Fire Trail. The river looked great, but the cloudless day made fishing hard. A small brown was the first fish caught...on a nymph. Travis tussled with a large surface feeding trout. Despite a lot of patience and well presented flies, the fish wasn't interested. Lots of walking and casting only produced one more fish for the area. It was great the river just by camp. Prior to dinner we decided to have one more fish to try to catch the 'evening rise'. BJ and I were both successful picking up a number of rainbows and the odd brown on dries. Once again, the Hi-Vis Black Spinner was a cracker. BJ's fly of choice was a small Para Adams. BJ wanted to save time at the campsite so 'decided' to have a dip in the river before returning to camp....luckily the water wasn't too cold.



Day 3 was fishing around the campsite. It always surprising when you spend time travelling around looking for fish and ignore the place right in front of you (or the camp). BJ and I both had success, mostly on dries. After a great day of fishing we packed camp and headed home, content that we had fun exploring fishing spots .... even if the fishing wasn't over the top successful ... good time with mates was the reward.





## Fly Tying 28 Feb – Commonwealth Hopper

**Claude**

The Commonwealth Hopper is a highly 'floaty' hopper that is great as a 'dry' in a dry-dropper or just a dry when you are fishing on a river near grassland. The bonus is it is not too difficult to tie and it works!



### Recipe:

Hook: Size 12

Foam cylinder – tan or yellow

Wing: Antron and Elk or Deer Hair

Green or Black thread for initial tie

Orange Fluoro orange thread

Legs – orange and black (or whatever you have in your tying kit)

Please contact me and BJ ([treasurer@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto:treasurer@canberra-anglers.asn.au)) if you intend to be at our first club meeting and we will try to make up some tying kits.



## Some interesting links from Greg S

Great White Sharks <https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=1367231120565054>

Composting fish scraps <https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=280541028313700>

Mullet swimming for their lives

<https://www.facebook.com/PaulDabillPhotography/videos/382948290837240/>

Brown trout rising through a sea of midges and Blue Wings

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenRiverFlyFisher/videos/886119926420833/>

Rainbow Trout Eating Fluttering Caddis

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenRiverFlyFisher/videos/917841699719050/>

Open season Topwater Murray cod

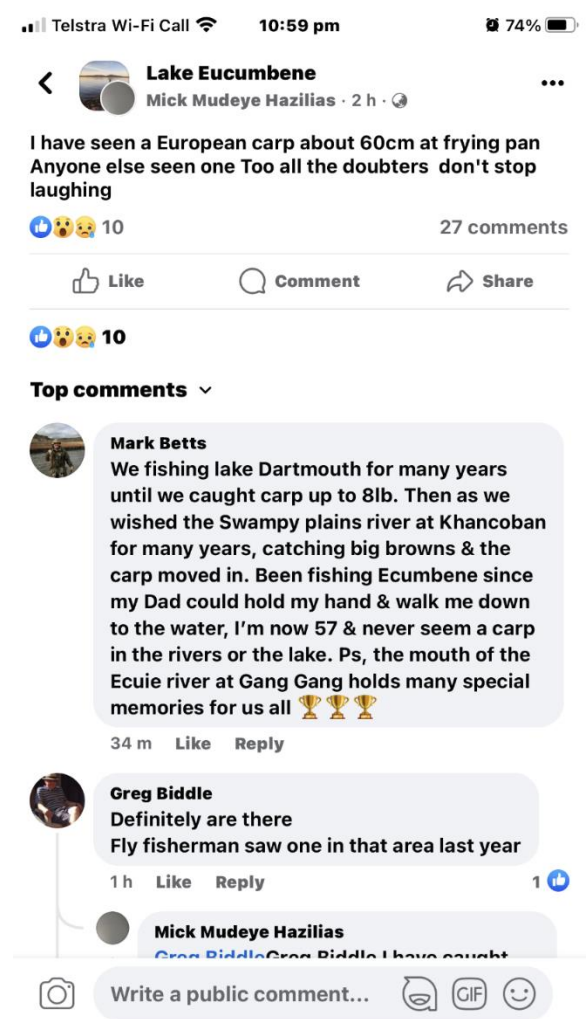
<https://www.facebook.com/iguidemurraycod/videos/2457663481083808/> - Greg hopes it wasn't a real mouse.

K'gari or Fraser Island footage <https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=1777855905974533>

Tuna versus squid <https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=750908363568683>

## In my In-Box

Carp in Lake Eucumbene? I was pointed to this post on the Lake Eucumbene Facebook Group. There was also word from a trusted angler of one being sighted in Muzzlewood Arm. Would ask everyone fishing down there to keep an eye out – if you catch one please provide details and photo.

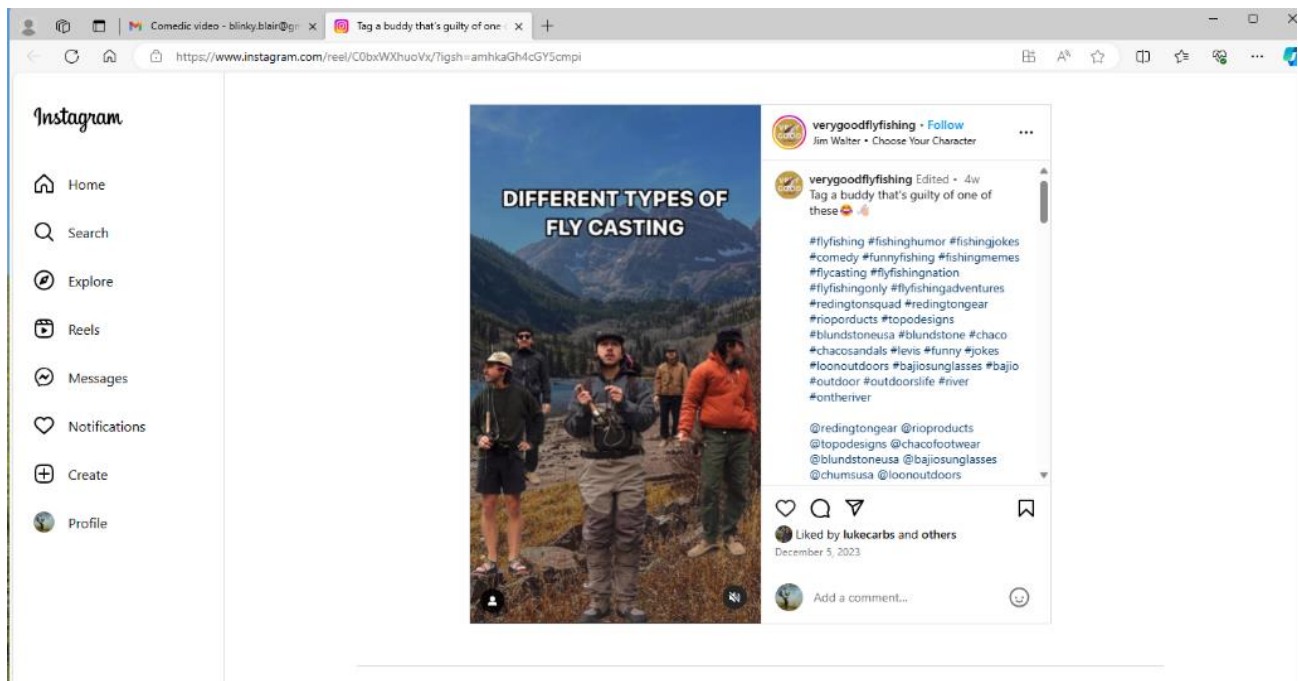




From Ray, a mate from NSW CFA and RFNSW who had been recently fishing on the South Island. He tells me that after a 20km walk in he got nothing on the first day. Made up for it on the second day sending me a number of photos of fish like this – on dry!

What kind of fly caster are you?

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C0bxWXhuoVx/?igsh=amhkaGh4cGY5cmpi>





## 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.

### [Mayfly Lifecycle](#)

A humorous description from YouTube – Ben, Huge FlyFisher

### [A New, Different, Fly Fishing Journal and Website](#)

CAA was approached by a local Canberran Henry Delves, who is the developer of a new fly fishing journal/website.

## 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.

### [More Stocking in Brogo Dam](#)

Time we went back?

### [Historic Photos of CAA](#)

Two photos of CAA working to save trout in Flea Creek in 1957. One example:



## 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.

January 2024 Newsletter has arrived – [here](#). Topics are:

- Trout Cod Action Plan
- Repainting of the big trout at Adaminaby declared a failure
- Latest NSW Recreational Fishing Trust annual report is online
- Brogo Dam gets Estuary Perch and Bass stocking

### 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](#).

January 2024 Newsletter has arrived – [here](#). Topics are:

- Latest NSW Recreational Fishing Trust annual report is online – our fishing fees at work
- Coopers Island (near Bodalla) access issues...again!
- Dodgy offering on eBay
- EHN fish disease in Lake Wallace, Blue Mountains
- Rig Recycle – keeping unwanted kit out of land fill

### Fisheries Victoria News – 'Nibbles'

These are in hiatus for the moment while they identify a new distribution system. Meanwhile they have a presence on all forms of [social media](#).

### Monaro Acclimatisation Society

MAS, funded from our licence fee trust fund and in partnership have been repairing a number of access roads into trout water, in particular Lake Eucumbene. The latest news is a little disappointing. The contractor has been unavailable to undertake work on Seven Gates – we



watch and wait. More significantly, the Buckenderra area suffered some huge storms recently. One portion of the road repairs survived well, but the second crossing towards Wainui Bay has been washed away. MAS and the contractor are considering options, meanwhile the access road to Wainui Bay from Buckenderra is closed.

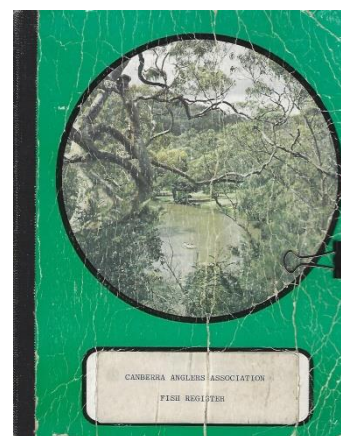
## Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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>
Friday 22nd Nov 2024 - Sunday 24th November 2024	Buckenderra's "Anaconda Trout Challenge". For 2023 highlights see <a href="https://www.facebook.com/100057227030541/posts/pfbid0BtH781hnBq3Ut4Ecm3qbQHnvvWj8FUUK9XQ7RBfUEyAsgffxh7UGUa66eiVSv6DqI/?mibextid=Nif5oz">https://www.facebook.com/100057227030541/posts/pfbid0BtH781hnBq3Ut4Ecm3qbQHnvvWj8FUUK9XQ7RBfUEyAsgffxh7UGUa66eiVSv6DqI/?mibextid=Nif5oz</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
Peter	Carp	Ten up to 63cm	Bait	LBG – CAA Carp event 14 Jan



## 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](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.