

THE BURLEY LINE



Stuart – Mataura River NZ 2024



From the Editor's Desk

Two groups from CAA have recently visited NZ, and as I type one more is heading there. Enclosed here is my report, Claude's will follow next month.

The Jindy trip gave quite diverse results, though all agreed the Saturday was tough fishing – the bright blue skies had the fish hiding and not coming up to a rise. Still a most enjoyable trip and highly recommended for next year's program.

Some more good links from Greg S, plus much activity with MAS identifying trout stocking sites in some iconic Monaro streams in light of the discovery of threatened natives.

Coming Events

Meeting: 13 Mar 2024.

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

Fly – Tying 27th Mar 2024.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details in due course via email. Fly Tying – Pheasant Tail Dry.

Next Events

22-24 Mar – Tantangara with Claude – more details via email and this [news post](#) – note amended dates.

\$2 for \$1 Native Fish Stocking Program

Ryan and Bill

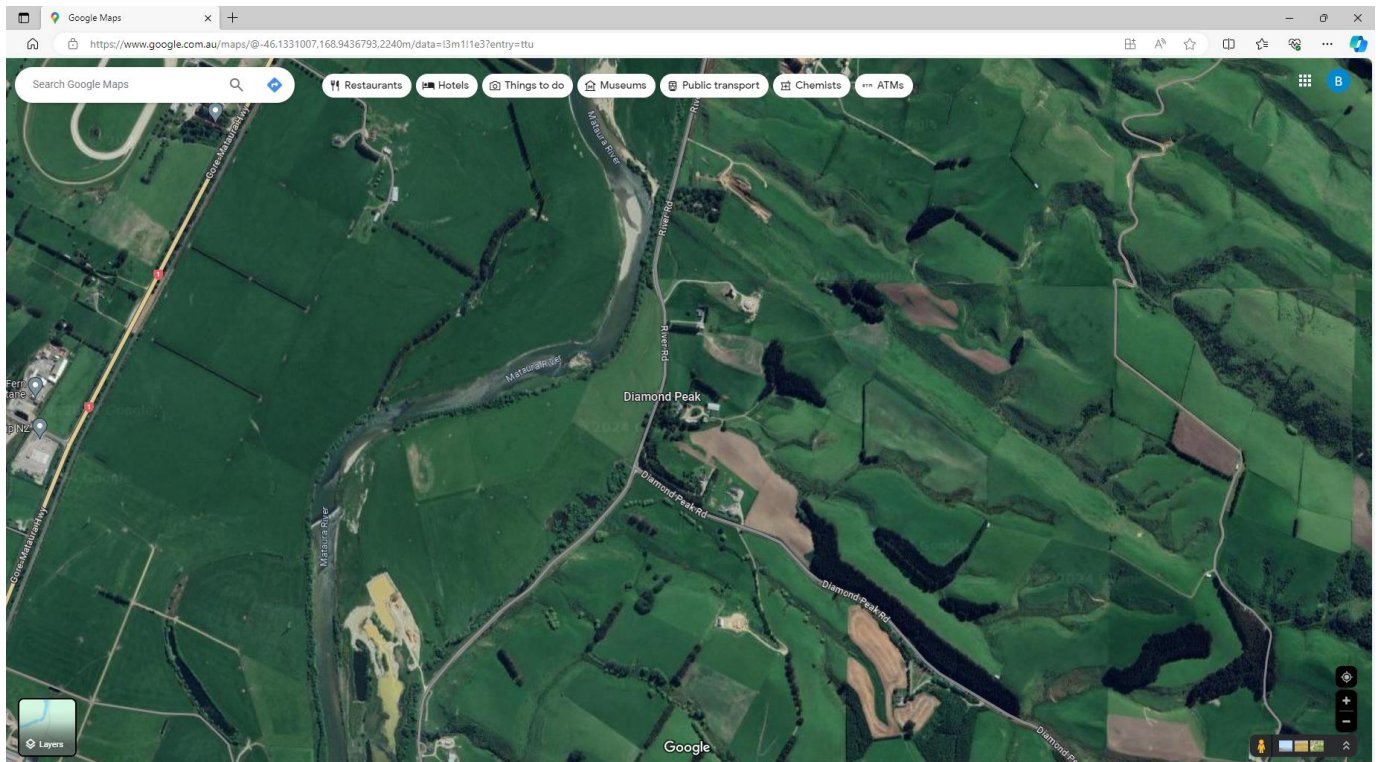
This program is funded by our NSW licence fees. For every dollar CAA puts in, the Rec Trust fund comes up with \$2. We have about \$1,000 that came from the defunct CRFA for stocking, plus we have another \$1,000 identified in our reserves. Ryan and Bill are examining previous ideas from Lyall and Jason M for stocking the Yass River and Queanbeyan River with Murray Cod. Contact has been made with Yass Fishing Club to co-ordinate bids, plus with Queanbeyan Golf Club to access their side of the Queanbeyan River (near snags placed by CRFA) if we choose to stock there.

Gore New Zealand 2024 – a Little Different

Bill

Those who got to the February meeting got the full story, but here are the best bits.

One of life members, Stuart, introduced Ian, Peter and me to this amazing place. Since then, people like Lyall, Greg W, Jason M and Claude have sampled its delights. This year I was forced to go in late summer (I'd normally go there in late April) and was accompanied by Stuart, his first trip back in ages, a friend of Stuart's Steen, and a work colleague of mine from years ago and now resident of New Zealand, Alfred. It was basically the first fly trip that Alfred had been on, whereas Stuart and Steen were accomplished fly casters – albeit they've been focussed more on swoffing recently.



The cottage sits one paddock from the mighty Matura River complete with the full gamut of large river structures.

The area had gone through a pretty hot summer with some small floods. When we arrived the river was slightly up and coloured. It seemed every time the river started to drop, we got a day of rain to top it up. Was windy many days too. Accordingly, we tended to fish smaller tribs plus the major Matura trib called the Wakaia which seemed clearer.

Fishing was pretty hard without the usual success double nymphing in the main river. A couple of days we struck rising fish with mixed results in fooling.

On a number of days we struck rising fish in the waters adjacent the cottage – check out this [video of a very active fish](#) at times less than a foot from the bank. No, I didn't manage to catch it.

My longest fish, but was a trifle lean and weighed less than a shorter one caught later.





My most successful days were on a small trib with sunny/windless conditions. This further cements me as a dry fly snob – casting dries to sighted fish, what more can someone ask for? All my fish were between 52 to 57 cm and 3.75lb to 4.75 lb (measured). That said, I also spent so much time targeting a number of actively feeding fish, at times up to 30 minutes, without achieving a hookup.

At least this way I know the problem was me, rather than 'no fish'.

The others also caught fish. Stuart appears as our cover photo – this was the result of casting to a rising fish on the Mataura River near Riversdale. He tells me "My first landed fish. Hence the quizzical look on my face."

Steen on the Wakaia – he was most impressed that I directed him to the classic lie.





Alfred and his first NZ brown – sighted and on dry fly no less.

I concluded my talk by discussing what made this trip a bit different:

- Late summer versus autumn
- Hot dry summer with floods – impact on insects?
- Only four duns and one spent spinner seen
- Almost none caught on nymph – I lost my only one in fast water
- Sunny/windless days/small streams = dry fly heaven
- Were some of these trout focused on willow grubs
- Channels were much changed even from last April

Oops

Bill



Hmm, had a little incident on the Wakaia.

Nathan was good enough to glue on a new tip guide – maybe turning my 9' #7 into an 8'6" #7? I have since tried it out and managed a 60' cast! That'll do as an excellent spare rod in the truck I thought. 😊

As it turns out, the incident was embarrassing on two counts – this is the fourth rod I've

broken, and the third Cabela's (the others were covered by warranty, but Cabela's didn't respond to my request for warranty on this one). Secondly, when I looked back at my old broken #6, I found the break was actually in the second section – I had a tip section available after all! Was a good thing that I looked as I've found a similar situation with my #3 so it seems I've now got a spare #3 tip.

And some of you wonder why I try to avoid nymphing, especially bead headed flies. Maybe I should just work on improving my casting.

Jindabyne Trip – 23-25 Feb

Bill

For some reason we had fewer members attend, the bonus was everyone (well except for the married couples) had a private room. So, Angie and Micheal, me and my wife Glenys, BJ, Owen, Geoff, Paul and his brother (newest CAA member) Pat assembled at the CSIRO Ski Lodge in East Jindabyne. We even momentarily saw Alan who staying in his usual abode of the caravan park to more easily hit the lake late at night. Paul and Pat had come down early and had some excellent results as you will see in their report. BJ came up with a great idea to dine at the Jindabyne Brewery – great food and excellent beer – almost like a Jindy version of Tumut River Brewing Company.

I've asked people to submit some photos and words. Geoff tells me he hooked 3 and landed one rainbow about 30 cm. For the moment, here is my report along with some photos from Owen, followed by Paul's:

.....

I partnered up with Owen fishing together Saturday and Sunday.



Saturday saw us walk up the hill from Dead Horse Gap to hit the upper Thredbo.

It had proven to be quite productive in the past, but perhaps due to the bright skies and gin clear water, we had no luck landing any fish. Owen came closer to that goal than me as at least he had one fish on.



Right up high, we came across a very long, slow pool. We counted 12 fish – most behaving in a very strange way swimming circuits at modest speed. Perhaps they were spooked by the presence of a cormorant. I had only one that took up a feeding stance at the junction of a little feeder stream. I managed a few casts that were ignored, until the fish moved, spotted my line and disappeared.



The walk home became quite exciting when Owen spotted a snake that I had just passed.



Sunday had us exploring the lower Wullwye Creek – this has come up as a possible way to continue having trout in the Dalgety reaches of the Snowy. The bankside reeds made access

difficult at Rockwell Road, so we headed down to Dalgety township. (Mark S subsequently told me we should have accessed via Dalgety Road where there are many fish.)



Owen fishing the 'tail race'.

I managed to spook one in the shallows but nothing much else seen. At least our disappointment was softened by the good lunch in the pub at Dalgety.



Paul and Pat

Another memorable CAA weekend getaway. Lots of fun memories. I enjoyed fishing with my twin brother (CAA's newest recruit) and we always have lots of fun and fish hard. The fishing was a bit tricky at times but we did manage to get amongst a few quality fish. We both enjoyed the company and the accommodation. The Saturday night outing was a great choice.





We managed a few great rainbows on the first day. Then we moved to a stream close to Jindy and got a few nice browns





On the Saturday, we fished the Thredbo. It was hard. Not much joy. We walked a long way. Fished some nice looking water for not much. Caught a couple of nice ones





On the last day we went east and fished another stream. Again it was hard. We did manage one nice brownie and had lots of chances on a few others but the water was too warm for much action. Still a fun day though



All in all a great weekend by anyone's standard.

More Fishy Videos from Greg

Greg S

I know this is from USA but still may be of interest. Sharks attack millions of fish during the Fall Mullet Run in Florida.

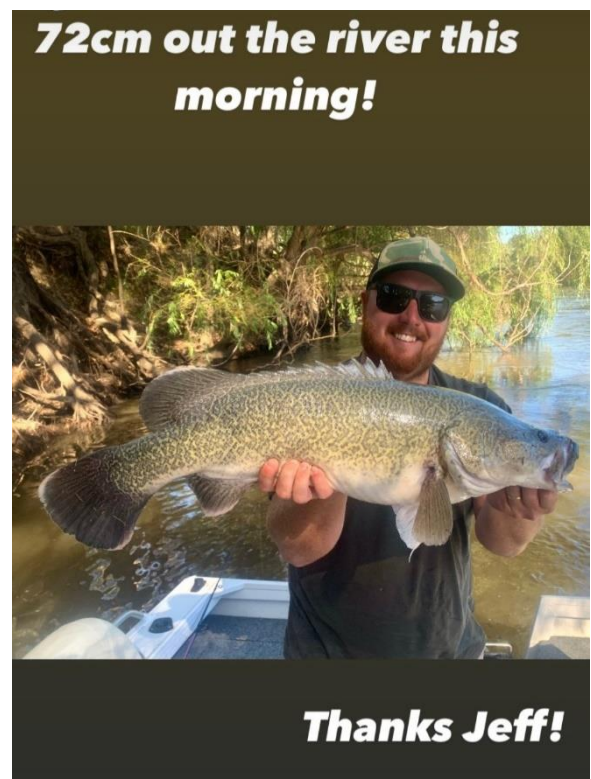
<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=1074812287189746>

In my In-Box

'Keep it Clean' campaign

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jM9j-mWr2XQ>.

And this one of Ryan:



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.

Lifecycle of Key Trout Insect Food

We now have two videos from that irrepressible 'Huge Trout Fisherman' on Youtube. These have been added to our [Tips](#) catalog.

- [Caddis and Stoneflies](#).
- [Mayflies](#)

Contrasting Brown and Rainbow Behaviour

The TaleOut online magazine has produced another great (Australian) article.

KNP Closures will Impact on Access to Tantangara

Aerial culling of feral animals.

Steve Starling Commentary on Trout in Australia

Some thoughtful observations.

Tiger Trout Research

Anyone who catches and keeps a tiger trout up in the Lithgow lakes can help out this research.

NSWCFA Interclub Meet

On April 5-7 the Interclub competition will be held in Wallerawang, organised by Sydney Flyrodders Club. CAA should consider donating something to the prize pool.

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.

MAS Letters to Minister and Head of Fisheries

This is in the context of changes to trout stocking sites. Thee response will be interesting.

Brouhaha over the Adaminaby Trout Paint Job

Call it artistic licence.



Other News

Additional news and links from supporting groups



MAS

The big news is the [retirement of long-term President](#) and stalwart 'action man' Steve Samuels.

In addition, there has been much conversation over the changes to stocking, especially the iconic rivers of MacLaughlin, Snowy, Mowamba, Delegate and Murrumbidge – all related to threatened native species.

MAS has issued a [policy document](#).



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.

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](#).

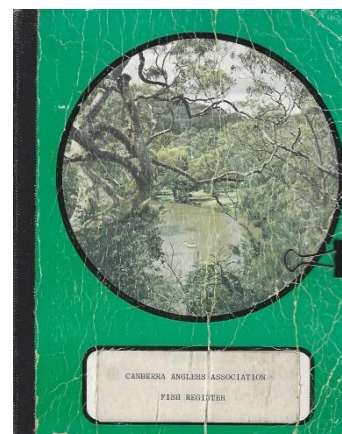
Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
Friday 22nd Nov 2024 - Sunday 24th November 2024	Buckenderra's "Anaconda Trout Challenge". For 2023 highlights see https://www.facebook.com/100057227030541/posts/pfbid0BtH781hnBq3Ut4Ecm3qbQHnvvWj8FUUK9XQ7RBfUEyAsgffxh7UGUa66eiVSv6Dql/?mibextid=Nif5oz

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 Native Fish Assessment	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

Canberra Anglers Association Inc.

PO Box 4115
Hawker, ACT, 2614

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

Burley Line contributions to:

burley-line@canberra-anglers.asn.au

Find us on

facebook

NOTE: Apart from Official Club Policy or Official Reports, the views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Canberra Anglers Association.

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.



Capital Fly Casting
www.capitalflycasting.com