

THE BURLEY LINE



Paul at Bondi Forest



From the Editor's Desk

Paul Mc the cod whisperer strikes again at Bondi – what a magnificent fish albeit very much in the wrong spot (Easterly flowing catchment). Paul also reports in about Black Lake.

All the news from the AGM with a 'newish' committee and trophy awards. President's speeches are here.

Stefan reports in from Western Australia – with some success shown.

Lachy's session with the humongous was quite a success with a goodly number showing up and with 3 tying variations on the theme.

Don't forget about the annual fly casting for the public – a flyer is included here for your use.

Coming Events

Meeting: 11th September.

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

Fly – Tying 25th September – Micro Jig Streamer – Ryan.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details via email.

Next Events

15, 22, 29 September. Fly Casting for the public. Remember you need to be a financial member of CAA for public liability insurance coverage.

11-13 October. Mayfly Madness based in Nimmitabel – Paul Mc leading.

CAA Delegate to NSWCFCA

The Committee are seeking a delegate to the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers. The role is to represent to the Council any matters CAA has noted affecting recreational angling with a NSW/ACT broad impact. The task is not onerous and involves a Zoom quarterly general meeting on Saturdays and perusing the monthly NSWCFCA Executive meeting notes to keep CAA appraised.

Bondi Forest 16-18 Aug

With the arrival of early reports I had been saddened to hear of no fish being caught – particularly that elusive cod predated on the trout. But then an evening email with the news "Cod king managed to land the monster cod that has been terrorising the trout population for over 40 years." The choice of photo of the month was obvious.

Paul has provided an 'epic tale'.



Trevor SS Trout Bum skippered by BJ.

Paul

Beowulf slays the monster

It's funny how tales of humanity are never new. The classic tale of Beowulf is a story that has been retold again and again over many generations. It's a story of Beowulf who became a hero by rising from the people to slay the monster, Grendel.

It is rare that such a story is played out in real life, but this story is about as close to the real story as you can imagine.



This story is set in the peaceful, wood smoke scented surrounds of Bombala. There, a few miles away is a small dainty lake with a dark past. This lake is a favourite location for anglers to visit and partake in some fly-fishing for trout. What the anglers didn't know was that the dark cold waters of this lake held a secret. A monster lived there. A monster that for decades, had laid siege upon the diminishing population of terrorised trout. Not too dissimilar to Hrothgar's dilemma when faced with the tyranny of Grendel. And similarly, just as Hrothgar put out a call to furthest corners of his kingdom to find a hero, so too did the king of the lake, Brian. Sending message out to all the best fisherman in the land to come to his lake and rid the lake of its monster.

This is where the CAA comes in and its bevy of anglers. All of which would be classified as unlikely heroes. A weekend was chosen, and a selection of modern-day fishing knights were assembled and sent into battle to rid this lake of its monster.

Now it must be said that this gun team was looking more like characters from a *Black Adder* set than the Cod gladiators that they turned out to be and I for one, was just a little bit sceptical about this lake monster.

I remember packing the car for the trip and throwing a few of my yet to be tested Cod flies and as a last-minute decision, grabbed my cod rod and lobbed it in my car.

Upon arrival I had a couple of casts in the lake that evening and promptly lost my lure when it snapped off on the cast. Bugger, I thought, I inspected the knot and found had failed way too easily.

Luckily, I didn't hook anything. That would have been over very quickly.

Later that night after dinner and a few warming glasses of red, BJ and I went down to the lake for another go at the same spot where BJ had seen a suspicious swirl when he was launching his punt, aptly named the SS trout bum. It was raining, cold and windy, BJ held the torch whilst I lobbed a few casts of a large surface paddler into the darkness. Luckily for us the monster lay asleep in her lair as we would have been ill prepared if we had hooked this monster.

We quickly got cold and scurried back to the fire and a round of drams that were being passed around. Us knights don't skimp on the finer things even when are on a mission like this.

I must admit I was still sceptical of the existence of this monster.

The next morning was still. Birds' sounds were suspiciously absent. I rose early and hurriedly dressed and added a couple of layers. I wandered down the lake edge and lobbed another cast back in the same location as the previous night. The lure plopped its way back to me as it tracked past the reeds. Suddenly there was an almighty wallop. The lure was flung into the air before crashing into the reeds.

OMG. The myth is true. The monster lives and it was massive. Unfortunately, the lure was now stuck firmly in the reeds and it despite trying all my tricks I could dislodge it. I knew I had to retrieve that lure, so I ran back to get my chest waders on and grab a few essential objects, Lipper grippers, cameras and my trusted lieutenant, BJ. I waded out to the limit of my waders and managed to extract the lure from the reeds.

It is hard to describe the tension of the moment when I laid out that second cast. I just knew that Grendel was going to come back and finish the job. Plop plop plop plop plop as the lure paddled into Grendel's lair. The hairs on the back of my neck were all prickly. I just could feel that her eyes were lining it up and she was moving in for the kill.

Boom! The lure disappeared into a giant hole in the water. The violence of the attack seemingly overt. I was on. She was a brute. She immediately dove into the reeds. Reeds were being smashed all over the place. I could feel her weight through the rod, and it was substantial.

A stalemate began. I could not gain any line, and she was hopelessly tangled in the reeds.

The only option was to enlist the help of SS trout bum and BJ and I climbed aboard and began poling the boat through the reeds. Grendel lay quiet. Saving her power for one final struggle. It wasn't until BJ inadvertently tapped her on her head with oar that she erupted and turned the lake into froth. It was at this moment that life was in balance. Was Beowulf going to prevail or not. Would Grendel gain her freedom and continue her tyranny of the lake's hapless trout.

Suddenly, she was quiet, her head rose from the depths, and she opened her bucket sized mouth as if to succumb. I fumbled as struggled to secure the Lipper grippers around the lower jaw and attempted to drag

the monster into the SS trout bum.

She seemed to be attached to the lake like there was some mysterious bond attaching her to her watery kingdom. On the third giant sized pull, I severed this bond, and she slid gracefully into boat.

She was massive, she was beautiful. The last few minutes had been pure pandemonium. The lake had released her Grendel.

She was dragged to the shore where she suffered the indignity of measurements and photographs. Victors always get to write the story.

Who would have thought that a middle aged, pudgy, pallid skinned, middle-class man from a comfortable suburb would be a modern-day Beowulf. Me, not in a million years. But it happened.



Some Feelings About Chasing Other Elusive Targets

Ash Allen is a Vice President of MAS, keen angler and sometime guide. You might find this article he wrote to be a thoughtful piece that will resonate with you.

<https://flystream.com/snowy-mountains-rubiks-cube/>

Stefan's Travels

Stefan is grey nomading with his van.

Stefan

Bill I'm onto fish on 80mile beach. Whiting and Threadfin 'salmon' on bait – pilchard sections. They call them mulies in WA. Also caught blue nose and a catfish, so only saw tooth shark and shovel nose ray to go to cover all species common here. 😊



Canberra Anglers Association Presents

Learn to fly cast

Sept. 15, 22 & 29
10am - noon

ON THE LAWNS BESIDE
QUESTACON ON MALL ROAD WEST
Best parking in Questacon car park

RODS PROVIDED
OR BRING YOUR OWN

Sunglasses or
eye protection
required to
participate

FREE Coaching
by CAA members including
Fly Fishers International instructors

ALL AGES AND
LEVELS WELCOME

Sausage sizzle,
drinks and raffles

29 September will be held at Nengi Bamir beach on Lake
Ginninderra on Diddams Close west

www.canberra-anglers.asn.au



CAA 2024 AGM and Trophy Awards

Our AGM was held on the 14th of August, unfortunately with a number of absences due to illness and travel. Our annual raffle had some excellent prizes sourced by Angie and Micheal from Tackle World.



Norm was one of the major prize winners



The [2024-2025 Event Program](#) has been published on our website (note that I initially had Lyle Knowles incorrectly being on Sun, it is on Sat). The fly tying schedule will be added to in due course:

DATE	EVENT	COORDINA-TOR
16-18 Aug	Bondi Forest	BJ

28 Aug	Fly Tying – Humongous	Lachy
15, 22, 29 Sep	Casting lessons for the public near Questacon incl on water at Lake Ginninderra on final day	Lyall
25 Sep	Fly Tying – Micro Jig Streamer	Ryan
11-13 Oct	Nimmitabel	Paul
Sat 19 Oct	Lyle Knowles Trophy competition (trout) – Cotter River between Condor Creek and Bendora Dam	Lyall
23 Oct	Fly Tying – Fiery Red Streamer	John
15-18 Nov	Saltwater	Ryan
27 Nov	Fly Tying – Wulff variations	BJ
11 Dec	Christmas Barbeque (Lake Burley Griffin, starts 6PM location TBA)	
Bonus session 8 Jan	Fly Tying – carp fly to suit our Carp Bash	John
12 Jan	Carp Bash	Claude
12 Feb	First Meeting 2025	
21-23 Feb	Jindabyne Trout	Bill
26 Feb	Fly Tying – to be advised	TBA
14-16 Mar	Tantangara	Claude

26 Mar	Fly Tying – to be advised	TBA
11-13 Apr	Brindabella	Ryan
23 Apr	Fly Tying – to be advised	TBA
16-18 May	Tumut	Stefan
28 May	Fly Tying – to be advised	TBA
25 Jun	Fly Tying – to be advised	TBA
23 Jul	Fly Tying – Purple Hackle Stacker	Bill
13 Aug	2025 Annual General Meeting	
To be confirmed	Bondi Forest	TBA

Your Committee has seen one leave and one new one arrive for 2024-2025. Here is the list:

President	Claude	Vice President	John
Secretary	Lyall	Assistant Secretary	Ryan
Treasurer	B.J.	Public Officer	Lyall
Council Member (Membership)	Bill	Council Member (Raffles)	Micheal and Angie
Council Member	Paul Mc	Council Member (Facebook)	Ryan
NSWCFA Delegate	vacant		

President's report

First and foremost, I sincerely apologize for not being able to join you tonight; I'm currently overseas on a long-planned vacation.

This year has been another great one for our club. What stands out most to me is the enthusiasm of our new members, who have jumped right into fly tying, club events, mentoring, and more. Their energy and commitment have been a fantastic addition to the dedication of our long-standing members. Our club thrives on active participation, and this year we've had

outstanding speakers, both from within and outside our community, as well as strong event turnouts—especially when new faces are involved.

The newsletter continues to be a vital part of our club, and it requires a lot of effort to keep it going. A big thank you to Bill for his unwavering dedication to the newsletter and his many other contributions to the fly fishing community. I encourage all members to support Bill by submitting content—whether it's just a photo and a few sentences or a longer piece. Every contribution counts, and I know everyone enjoys reading about the latest member adventures. Thanks again, Bill.

Our premier event (fly casting for the public) was once again a success, with strong support from both the public and our members. It was wonderful to see our new equipment in action, making the event more enjoyable for everyone involved. A huge thank you to Lyall for organizing such a great event, and I encourage everyone to support the upcoming event in September. Special thanks also to Angie and Micheal for organizing the raffle prizes and to Mike K for helping out with the BBQ.

The committee has been incredible—enthusiastic and fully committed to making sure our members have the best possible experience. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication, and I hope you'll continue to support the club in the future. We do have committee positions available, so if you're interested in getting more involved, I encourage you to step forward. A special shoutout to Ryan, one of our newest and most enthusiastic committee members, who has not only volunteered for the committee but also organized the saltwater event and led several fly-tying sessions.

Lastly, I want to extend my deepest thanks to all our club members. We wouldn't have a club without you! Your support at events, welcoming speakers, participating in activities, writing stories, and mentoring fellow members are what make the CAA the best club in Canberra. The committee and I look forward to your continued support in the coming year.

And The Rest

Membership fees are to remain unchanged for 2024/2025. We would appreciate if those members renewing could use electronic funds transfer if at all possible. Canberra Anglers Association, BSB 032727, A/C Number 233821. Please remember to put your name into the EFT comments field for identification. If any of your contact details have changed, please advise using the fill-in form on [the membership page](#).

As part of the AGM, the annual trophy presentations were undertaken – well done to the various recipients. The various rules for the 2024-25 season are documented [here](#). (Validated Natives Calculator etc are [here](#)). Very few fish were recorded in 'the little green book' so not all trophies were awarded. (The registration process encourages you take a photo alongside some means of confirming length).





Ryan took out the Lyle Knowles Trophy with a 33cm rainbow. The Cotter system has continued to fish really well this season. Unfortunately, Ryan was unavailable to attend the AGM. This photo isn't that fish, but a nice picture of Ryan himself from early last season.



Angler's Art Trophy for Best Trout on an Outing Other than Lyle Knowles was won by Bill's 37cm Rainbow (Bondi Forest trip)



The Mick Cornick Trophy for Best Trout on Fly, Streams was won by Paul for a 60cm rainbow.



The Mick O'Brien Trophy for Best Trout, Any Method was won by Peter 61cm brown. Peter couldn't be there but here he stands proudly with this fish.



The Carp Trophy was won by Paul Mc for a 73cm specimen.



Dr Bryan Pratt Trophy for Best Murray Cod was won by Paul Mc for his 80cm Cod.



Keith Shields Trophy for native fish for the season was won by Paul Mc for his 80cm Cod.



The Saltwater Trophy was won by Rod for a Mulloway – by far the most impressive fish caught on our Saltwater event last year and a CAA first. Rod was unfortunately unavailable to receive the trophy.



The President's Award for contribution during the season is a vintage split cane rod from the House of Hardy was presented to Lachy.

President's Words on the President Award.

Selecting the recipient of the President's Trophy is both an honour and a chance to recognize an outstanding member of our club. This year, the decision was particularly challenging because we have so many members who are making significant contributions. However, I'm nominating someone who, despite being relatively new to the club, has quickly become an integral part of our community. This individual has actively participated in numerous club weekend events, generously shares his knowledge of fishing techniques and equipment, offers up his flies when they're "going off," volunteers to lead fly-tying sessions, and is always willing to lend a hand whenever needed.

Lachlan, thank you for being an exceptional club member!

Black Lake

Paul

Black lake is lake located near the town of Bibbenluke, in southern NSW. It has a rich trout fishing history going back decades. Unfortunately, in recent years it has been affected from the changing climatic conditions and has suffered as a consequence. Several large scale well publicised fish kills have put a black mark over it.

Well, this has changed in the last 3 years. After several above average seasons, the water table has bounced back and its now back in



action. It is called Black Lake for a reason. The lake floor is a fine black basalt silt which gives the lake its black colour. As a consequence, it heats up very quickly and is also very fertile. It has reportedly one of the highest growth rates of any NSW trout water.



Recent reports have shown that its rainbow trout have already reached impressive sizes.

It is a challenging lake to fish from the shore as it is often windy and cold. The lake is very shallow so wading along the muddy foreshores is necessary.

I visited the lake recently and did manage a couple of fish fishing in the windy side of the lake with a small streamer. Hard yakka until you get that long awaited tug. Cold hands miraculously forgotten.



I had a second session in more benign conditions and it proved less fruitful. I did witness fellow club member Trevor fishing to some rising trout surrounded by incredibly curious black angus cattle. This was on the lee shore where it is shallow and calm. Despite placing several flies right on the fish's nose, no interest was gotten from the fish. I suspect incy wincy midges were the culprit.

It would have been good to stay until dusk to see if the midge hatch intensified, but we had to make tracks and left them unmolested.

Given the historical rise and fall of this fishery, it might be worthwhile to give this lake a fish in the next few months while it has a reasonable population of fish.



Fly Tying 28 Aug 2024 – Humongous

Lachy led us on this fly. More details on [our fly tying blog](#).

Lachy

Great tying session this evening. Thanks to all who joined in. Good luck using these Humongous flies in the lakes and dams. I can certainly vouch for them getting rainbows at Pejar.



Lachy

Ryan



Bill

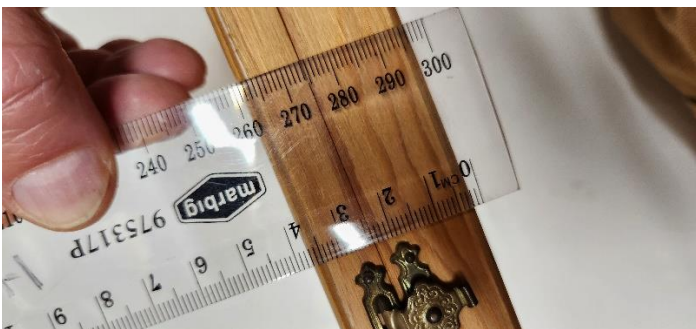
Free to a Good Home

Jaime

We are getting rid of these insect slide boxes from here at the insect collection, we have way too many. I thought they can be a good way to store over-flow of flies. You can use the old slide-slots and build slides for flies (a thin piece of wood with foam). If that sounds too complicated you can just get rid of the pieces of wood with the slide-slots at the side of the box and glue a wide foam. Dimensions are variable, larger ones are about 29 x 20 x 3.5 to 4.0 cm. Smaller ones are shorter on their longer side, about 22 cm.

Many of these wood boxes are older than any of you and come from European museums (British Museum for example), the build style was great in those times.

Anyway, if any of you are interested to get them all or just one or few, let me know SOON... otherwise they will go to the rubbish... which will be sad.





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.

[Gaden Hatchery Updates](#)

A presentation from the Gaden Manager on the impressive upgrades.

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



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

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

Other News

Additional news and links from supporting groups



NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers

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

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

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

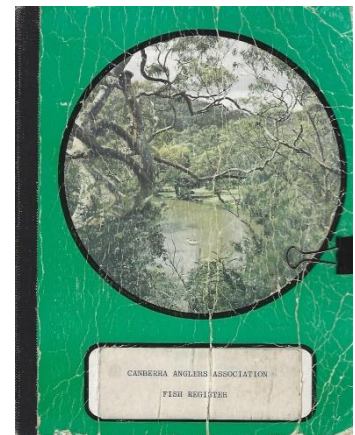
Provided for your calendar planning, members can see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest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

Dates	Event Details
various	The NSW DPI Kids' Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne are in hiatus. However there are also saltwater and freshwater events across the state. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids

Sun 13 Oct	Gone Fishing Day at Gaden Hatchery – more information in due course will be disseminated. All welcome to this grand opening of the refurbished hatchery.
Friday 22nd Nov 2024 - Sunday 24th November	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
Lachy	Rainbow	43cm	Fly	Pejar Dam, 14? July 2024
Paul	Cod	100cm (74% on our Natives Assessment Tool)	Lure	Bondi Forest, 18 Aug 2024

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). 2024/2025 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.

**BOSS
OUTDOOR**



Capital Fly Casting


www.capitalflycasting.com