

# THE BURLEY LINE



Claude with his LBG Murray Cod



## From the Editor's Desk

We've come out of the summer break and dire reports on trout fishing continue – water levels are down and some of the lowland streams have stopped flowing.

This issue has come along really well with multiple reports, including local successes and recent CAA events. Fish stocking (of natives and threatened species) are documented after CAA successfully obtained supplementary funding for cod stocking in the Yass River and members were involved in trout cod research stocking. Talking about research and threatened species, CAA has been invited to be involved in a UNSW research project – more information given in the newsletter, come along to the Feb meeting to hear all about it.

## Coming Events

### Meeting: 12th February.

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom. Christopher Cvitanovic of UNSW will be presenting on his research (and hoping we might participate). He is examining:

- The interaction between Trout Anglers, Trout, and Threatened Fish Species
- The importance of the local environment to local fishers

See project summary in this issue.

### Fly Tying: 26th February – Something that Might Tempt a Cod.

7:30 via Zoom– our mate Nathan from Boss Outdoors will be leading. More details via email.

### Next Events

**21-23 February.** Our annual trip to Jindabyne for lake and nearby river fishing. Contact Bill. The lodge can cater for 14, make your bids now though payment won't be needed till 7 Feb.

**March.** Our planned trip to Tantangara clashes with other events for our organiser Claude – more information is given below.

## CAA Delegate to NSWCFA

The Committee are still 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 NSWCFA Executive meeting notes to keep CAA apprised.



## Raffle Prizes

New member Terry won the grand prize at the casting days – a Primal outfit courtesy of Boss Outdoors – but was unable to attend the final day. He



eventually received his prize at the end of year BBQ.

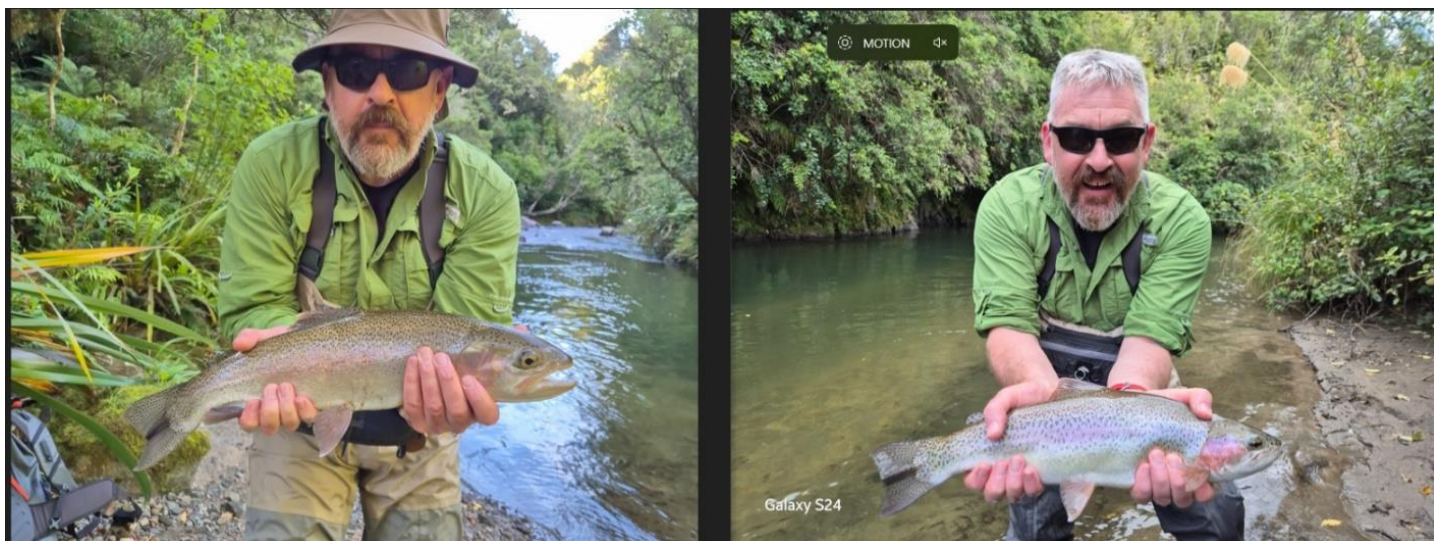


The big prize for the end of year raffle was won by Jayden – unavailable to attend the BBQ. Comprehensive collection of flies curated by Nathan and in a fly box – all donated by Boss Outdoors – we much appreciate their support.

# CAA Knowledge Trust to the Assistance

## Bill

A mate of Claude's (let's call him 'Washo') was recently planning a trip to New Zealand fishing Taupo. Claude put out a request before Christmas to some of the experienced NZ anglers in regards guides and other tips which evinced a strong response, though at times conflicting advice – for instance, who amongst us goes heavier than 5lb except for fishing at night in the lakes 😊.



Washo has returned and advised:

*I ultimately went with Andrew Christmas (<https://www.taupotroutguide.com>) who was excellent and took me to some back country spots rather than the Tongariro... too many holiday makers. Pools were full of 4lb plus rainbows.*

*I had a couple of solo days on the Hinemaiaia and Waitahanui, where I picked up a few tiddlers - all rainbows.*

*Thanks for the tips.*

As our President remarked "It's a great thing when the club can provide advice to our current or past members or the fishing fraternity in general".

## CAA Carp Event – 12 Jan

### Claude

Sunday's carp event was somewhat spoiled by the preceding days rain. After months without significant rain, the heavens opened with some good storms. BJ and I were really looking forward to some sight fishing on the Murrumbidgee and were very disappointed to see both the bidgee and Molonglo chocolate coloured from the top of Shepherds Lookout.

We surmised that the scarred earth around the new housing developments was the likely cause of the dirty water....supported by the fact that the water was relatively clear below Scrivener



Dam. We fly fished from below the dam (where the no fishing signs stopped) almost down to the bridge that crosses the parkway without even seeing a fish.





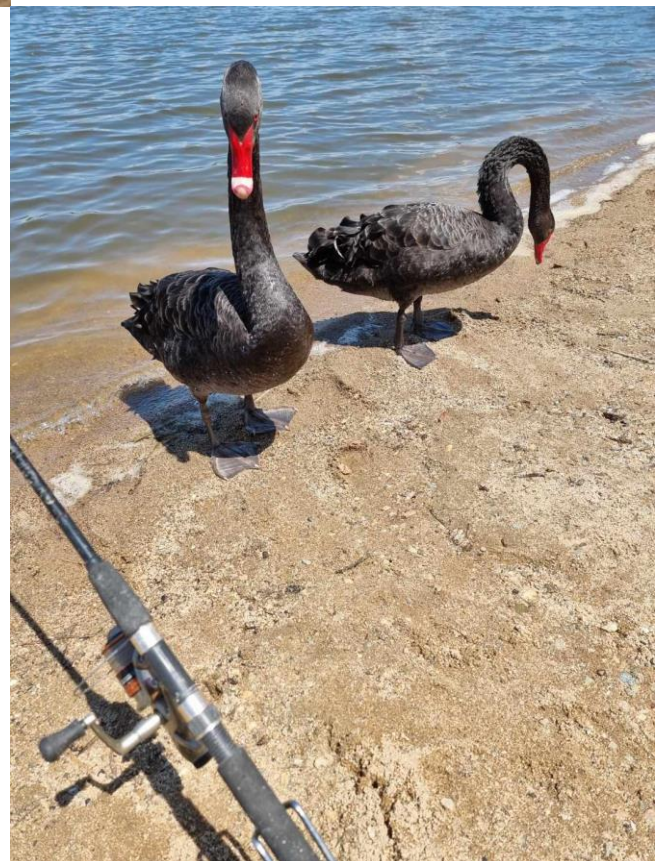


We were constantly interrupted by Peter K's messages highlighting 'another fish caught' on corn in LBG. Both BJ and I did not catch any fish...but we had a pleasant walk...casting practice...and dealing with 'witty comments' from bystanders...'no trout in there mate'. Peter ruled the day (as far as I know) catching 9 carp on corn for the day ranging between 41 to 57cm...well done Peter!

### Peter K

A couple of 57 cm carp caught on corn at the carp day on LBG. Noticed on the day that various schools of carp were coming through at different times of the day. This caused me to catch groups of fish approximately equally sized at different times of the day.

*(Editor: Peter sent in a few photos of his carp (to indicate he'd caught a bunch? But since they all looked exactly the same, I've added only one photo here. 😊)*



# Claude's Multiple Reports

Seems Claude has packed in some trips in the final days of his leave.

## Claude

Claude and BJ tried to cram in all the planned holiday fishing in the last week of our leave. We had three trips, chasing natives in Lake Burley Griffin (LBG), trout in Lake Eucumbene and then the Carp for the club event. Our LBG trip was the first time we took out our 'SS Trout Bum' for 2025 and we launched from Black Mountain Peninsula and trolled close to the trees to the rowing lanes near Government House. We mixed our fishing between small/medium hardbodies to BJ's monster spinner baits. We saw a number of schools of small redfin trying to take on the larger lures equivalent to their size or larger. We both picked up a little reddy. BJ thinks he spotted two large Murray Cod as we drifted over the edges of some weed beds. On the return journey we moved slowly back along the tree lined bank next to the parkway. Casting into the bank, sunken/heavily leaning trees and into nearby water. We were using all the aforementioned gear, but I got lucky casting a black grub soft plastic into the shoreline under the trees. I initially thought I got lucky with a large yellow (not that I have caught many) but was amazed when I saw the distinctive colours of a Murray Cod...then I started to worry about my 5lb tippet and my 'light rod'. With trusty BJ's assistance the fish was netted and I could breathe a sigh of relief....and then I realised I would have to cast another 1000 times before my next cod 😊.

*(Editor: see photo of the month)*

A couple of days later we headed to Lake Eucumbene – Rushies Bay. We were very thankful for the low draft of 'SS Trout Bum' as we launched it into 6 inches (15 cm) of water and then walking it out for 20 meters before we felt we could safely get into it without bottoming. Rushies is a beautiful and scenic part of Euc and always looks very fishy. We didn't venture too far particularly with the wind and the electrical motor cutting out when we unknowingly knocked the battery connector. 10 seconds of panic each time. Lots of casting towards the rocks, shorelines and weed beds. I was fortunate to get four rainbows and one brown for the day. Most were caught in a #14 black woolly bugger and one on a #18 bibio wet fly.









# Fishing for Trout in the Hot Weather

President of MAS, Kerry Pfeiffer, had prepared a substantial paper on catch and release for the NSW Rod Fishers Society newsletter – a particular point that came up in a recent conversation was the difficulty in successfully releasing fish when water conditions are poor. Given our recent hot weather and some Monaro streams stopping flow, the lessons here should be taken to heart. I'll put the full article into our ['Tips' section](#) in due course.

## Kerry

*In the middle of summer when the water temperature rises above 22°C the available oxygen in the water makes a successful fish release harder. This may mean an extended time nursing the fish back from what would otherwise be certain death. When you revive a trout, don't do it in warm backwaters or eddies off the main river. Revive it near riffles where the water is as cool and oxygenated as possible.*

*Releasing fish on pools with little flow during hot weather, such as occurs on the Monaro can be problematic. What flows there are can be well above comfortable temperatures for trout. In these situations, the coolest water will be in the depths of the pools resulting from temperature stratification, so attempt to release fish in the deepest water available.*

*Achieving good outcomes whilst undertaking a "catch and release" leaves a good feeling of perhaps seeing that fish again some day and again enjoying the experience. The release can be a tricky undertaking especially in warmer water, it is much harder to do without a net.*

## Trout Cod Stocking by DPIRD and MAS

This was reported on our Facebook, but here are the images. Stefan attended via his membership of MAS.

The stocking of Murray Cod by CAA into the Yass River is reported later in this issue and earlier via our Facebook page (many thanks Ryan).











# TROUT COD

**TOTALLY PROTECTED**

An endangered species

There are severe penalties for taking, attempting to take, harming, possessing, buying or selling Trout Cod or for damaging their habitat without the appropriate approvals.

Trout Cod may be confused with Murray Cod which can be legally caught. If you catch a Trout Cod or are unsure, release the fish unharmed.

HOW TO SPOT THE DIFFERENCE	TROUT COD	MURRAY COD
<b>1 HEAD PROFILE</b>	Straight	Concave
<b>2 HEAD WIDTH</b>	Narrow	Broad
<b>3 EYES</b>	Larger, usually with horizontal eye stripe on side of head	Smaller, eye stripe usually absent in fish over 4 kg
<b>4 JAWS</b>	Upper jaw overhangs the lower	Equal or bottom jaw protrudes
<b>5 BODY COLOUR</b>	Blue-grey to dark brown on back, paler (grey to white) underneath	Pale green to creamy yellow on back, paler underneath
<b>6 BODY MARKINGS</b>	Dark spots and irregular dashes, except on forehead and snout	Green mottled or mosaic pattern, extending onto forehead and snout
<b>MAX. REPORTED WEIGHT</b>	16 kg	114 kg

More information | Fact sheets | Report sightings scan the QR code or go to: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/species-protection](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/species-protection)

**Report illegal fishing activities to Fishers Watch 1800 043 536**

18460 4/24 Photo by Gunther Schmida, Illustrations by Pat Tully

# From Greg S

[Mulloway on the Gold Coast.](#)

Greg thinks that [mermaids are real](#) – this AI stuff is getting out of hand 😊

## February Meetings - Christopher Cvitanovic Project Summary

I'm excited to let you know about a new research project that I am leading focused on understanding the human dimensions of fishing in Canberra's rivers.

This project seeks to gather essential baseline data on fishing behaviours and preferences in rivers in the ACT, providing valuable insights into fishers' knowledge of local rules and regulations, their methods of accessing information, and their perceptions about the interaction between trout and threatened native species.

By participating in this survey, you have a unique opportunity to voice your values and opinions, ensuring they are represented in the data. Your input will play a vital role in helping local managers strike a balance between protecting threatened species and maintaining a vibrant recreational fishery. The results will also help managers understand how to improve communication with fishers and the broader community using rivers in the ACT. This is your chance to contribute to the future of fishing in the ACT.

Our team will be attending your club meeting on 12th February, giving a short presentation about the work, and answering any questions you may have. At the end of the presentation, we will invite anyone willing to complete the survey, which will take around 15 minutes of your time. Any information you provide will be completely confidential and anonymous.

Thanks, and see you soon!

Dr Chris Cvitanovic (c.cvitanovic@unsw.edu.au)

Fisheries Scientist, University of New South Wales, Canberra Campus





# CAA March Trip to Tantangara Reshaped to New Date and to Buckenderra

## Claude

The trip will now be 21-23 Mar to Buckenderra Caravan Park...may get more people, can camp by the lake and fish as we sit around a campfire...and it will give BJ and me more time to repair 'SS Trout Bum'. Please advise me with expressions of interest for those that want to book accommodation.

Due to the dry conditions and generally challenging river fishing conditions due to the hot / dry summer, I have changed the date and location of the 'Tantangara Trip' to 'Buckenderra – Lake Eucumbene Trip'. The fishing will be primarily lake based unless folk want to travel to the local rivers. There is plenty of shore based fishing opportunities however you will need a 4WD if you want to travel further afield along the lake edge (to the cattle farm area). This trip allows you to engage in all types of fishing in one day...boat fishing if you have one, fly fishing as much as you like, lures when you get tired or frustrated and bait fishing with a rod bell as we sit around the fire on the water's edge at night.....or any other combination.

All accommodation options are available. Please express your interest if you want to share a cabin and I will try to coordinate – please note, that if you cancel your shared accommodation at late notice, normal club etiquette is to offer your part of the fee to other members. I will be camping.

...more to follow later.

## Fly Tying Program

The Fly Tying Program for the rest of this season is coming together – one only not finalised. Keep an eye on our [Program page](#) on website.

## Claude

For Feb fly tying Nathan is preparing packs of the specialised material for the cod fly for members to buy at Boss Outdoors. We'd appreciate a register of interest to guide Nathan on the number of kits he should prepare. A recipe and photo should be available very soon.

For Mar fly tying the pattern is a mud-eye.



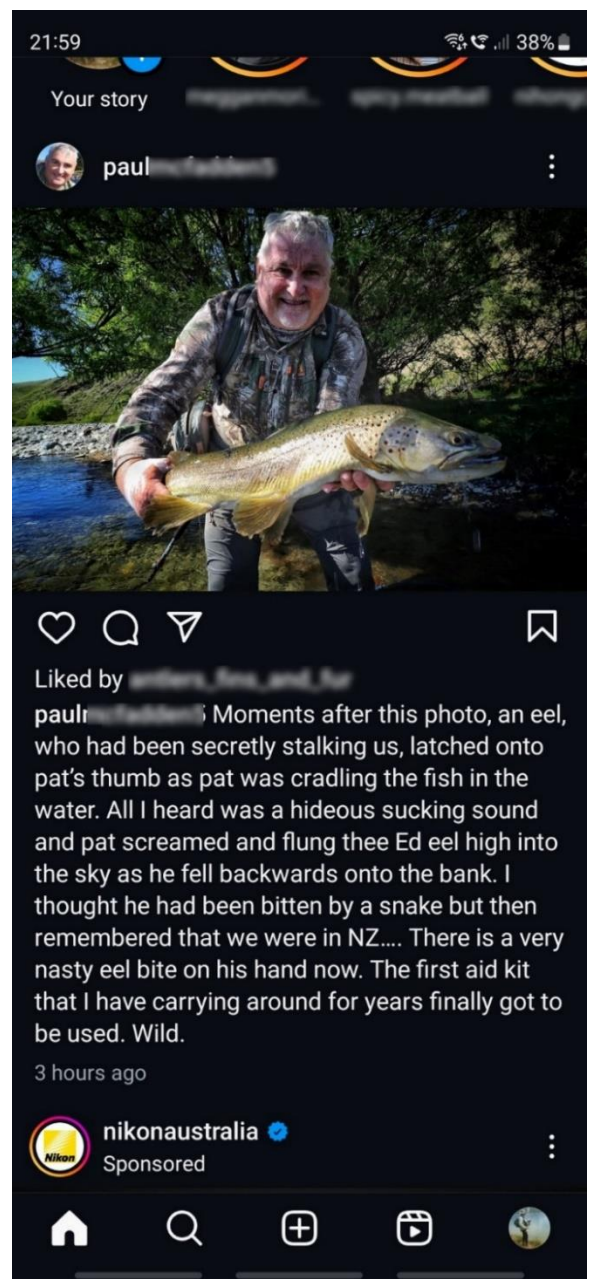
Nathan has the requisite material in amongst his normal fly tying material but there is an opportunity for interested people to share materials given the material packs are likely to cater for many more flies than people might end up tying. People interested in tying the mud-eye and who would like to share in a team material purchase need to register and then attend the CAA Feb or Mar meeting when the goodies can be shared out (and perhaps a bit of loose change exchange hands)..

## Other Stuff in my In-box

Those prolific twins, Pat and Paul, had a very productive time in the north west of the South Island.



This post reaffirms my caution with eels despite calls of 'wimp' from Peter K.



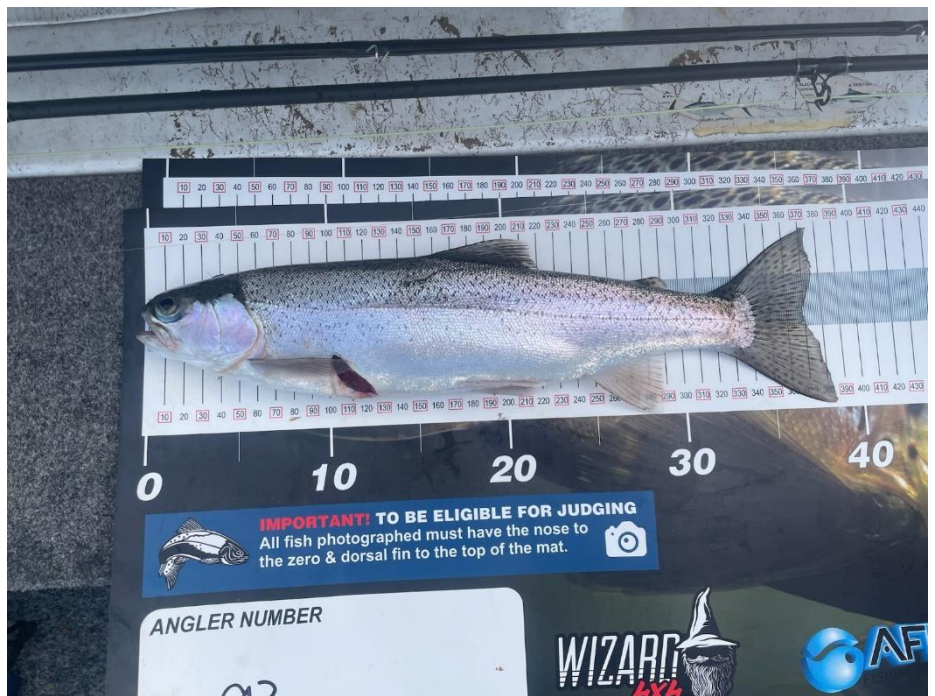


Much has been said about the impact of cormorants on fishing this season so far. We've seen flocks operating in formation chasing fish in the lakes and weird behaviour of fish in the streams.



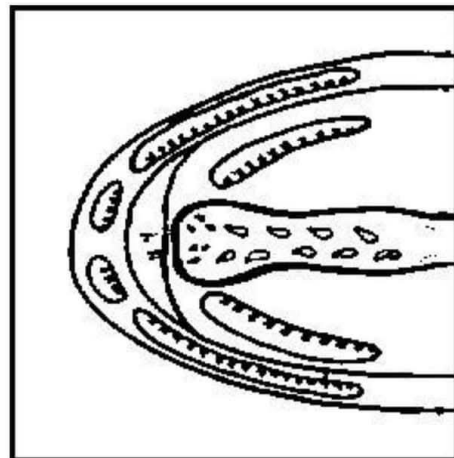
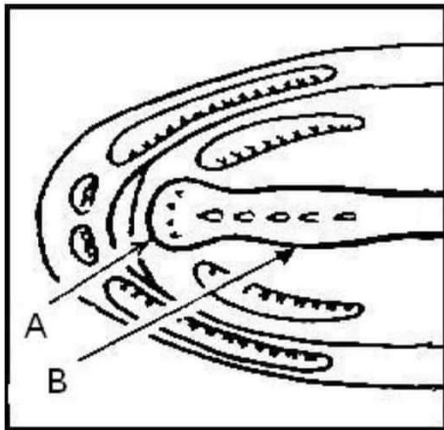
From Dave in QAC – this 40odd cm brown was coughed up by one cormorant. It was successfully revived and returned to the water.

Pat from QAC caught this good looking rainbow, but you can see the marks from a cormorant strike.

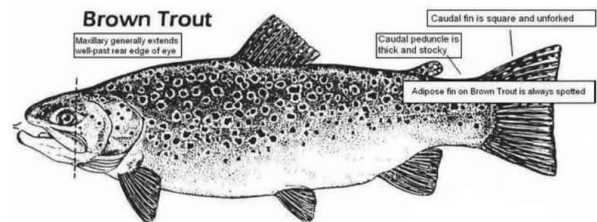
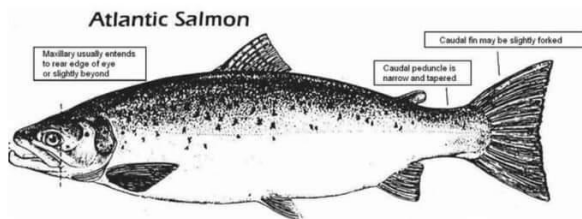


FOR FUTURE, CHECK THE INSIDE THE MOUTH AND THAT WILL TELL YOU EXACTLY WHAT FISH IT IS. THE ATLANTIC SALMON HAS ON THE ROOF OF ITS MOUTH A SINGLE ROW OF VOMERINE TEETH. THE BROWN TROUT HAS TWO ROWS WHICH ZIG ZAG.

Peter K has been trying to teach me how to tell a brown trout from an Atlantic Salmon. My phone must have been listening as this popped up in my Facebook feed:



- A. Vomerine head
- B. Vomerine shaft





Instagram ▾



Suggested for you

[Older posts](#)



fly.life.outdoors

🎵 Lance Taber • Kickstand

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fly.life.outdoors Ever think the streamers you're throwing are too big? They're not. Go bigger.

## 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.

### [January Issue of NSWCFA Newsletter](#)

Very informative edition.

### [January Issue of RFA of NSW Newsletter](#)

Lots of interesting stuff including some important safety advice (anyone got a Marlin inflatable life jacket?)

### [Troubles With Local Lakes](#)

ACT government webpage reporting on health conditions for our local waterways. Have put link onto our 'useful links' page.

### [Boss Outdoors Youtube Videos/Fishing Reports](#)

A really useful resource.

### [Tumut River Brewing Company](#)

A favourite of many of us and a locale we have frequented during our Tumut trips had been threatened with closure. Looks like it may have been saved at the last minute – we'll need to check it out in May when Stefan takes us up to the mountains.

## 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.

### [Trout Cod Stocking in Goodradigbee River](#)

Stefan got involved through his membership of MAS. See photos earlier.

### [Murray Cod Stocking in Yass River](#)

For some time CAA has had money set aside for natives stocking. This season we got approved for a \$2 for \$1 grant from the Recreational Fishing Trust to stock at Yass. Well done to Ryan for co-ordinating, and the others who went out to help.





## 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.

January Edition is advised in our News Blog section below.

### 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 Edition is advised in our News Blog section below.

### 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*.

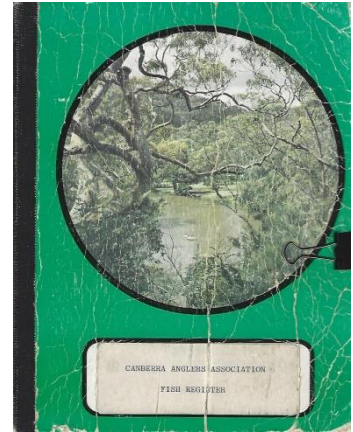
Dates	Event Details
various	The NSW DPI Kids' and Women's Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne were in a hiatus during the construction but our now back. There are saltwater and freshwater events across the state.

	<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>
Watch for next year	Buckenderra's "Anaconda Trout Challenge". For 2023 highlights see <a href="https://www.facebook.com/100057227030541/posts/pfbid0BtH781hnBq3Ut4Ecm3qbQHnvvWj8FUUK9XQ7RBfUEyAsgffxh7UGUa66eiVSv6Dql/?mibextid=Nif5oz">https://www.facebook.com/100057227030541/posts/pfbid0BtH781hnBq3Ut4Ecm3qbQHnvvWj8FUUK9XQ7RBfUEyAsgffxh7UGUa66eiVSv6Dql/?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
Lachy	Rainbow	43cm	Fly	Pejar Dam, 14? July 2024
Paul	Cod	100cm (74% on our <a href="#">Natives Assessment Tool</a> )	Lure	Bondi Forest, 18 Aug 2024
Owen	Brown	52cm	Fly	Mayfly Madness event 11-14 Oct 2024
Paul	Brown	60cm	Fly	Mayfly Madness event 11-14 Oct 2024



Pat	Brown	63cm	Fly	Mayfly Madness event 11-14 Oct 2024
Owen	Rainbow	27cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles event, 19 Oct 2024
Peter	Redfin	33cm	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong, 22 Oct 2024
Peter	Carp	9 fish – most at 57cm	Bait	CAA 'Carp Bash' event 13 Jan 2025

## 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