

THE BURLEY LINE



Ryan's beautifully coloured brown from Lake Eucumbene



From the Editor's Desk

Despite the rivers fishing pretty poorly, seems that folk are catching fish. I even managed one on the Snowy but since he had his nose buried in the side of my net, my photo isn't sufficient standard and doesn't make the cut for this edition.

Many thanks to my regular contributors – and now a new one in the form of Mark (mate of Claude and Gary) on his first trip to New Zealand.

Reports on our Jindabyne trip and one photo from Pat in New Zealand (again!).

I'm always looking for contributions – for the April edition I'll need them a little earlier than usual – let's say 28 March?

Coming Events

Meeting: 12th March.

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

Fly Tying: 26th March – to be determined.

7:30 via Zoom. More details via email.

Next Events

21-23 March. Our planned trip to Tantangara clashed with other events for our organiser. We are now going to Buckenderra – more details via email.

CAA Delegate to NSWCFA

At the February meeting, Lachy and Neil volunteered to take on this role – much appreciated.

Jindabyne Trip 21-23 Feb

Thanks so much everyone for coming along and being your social selves. I reckon these group trips where we actually get together (even if we miss the occasional evening rise 😊) are invaluable. Especial thanks to BJ and Lachy for mentoring Xenii and James. I'm sure they learnt a lot of practical tips.

Paul

Another marvellous CAA trip. Thanks to Bill for organising it. I came down on Friday night, arriving late after a stop over at Lake Eucumbene. I caught two rainbows there and kept one for dinner. Interestingly, the mud-eye fly was hooked right down in his stomach. It had to be surgically removed. Cooked up with butter and almonds it was delicious.



Saturday was spent with Pat and Ryan aboard Ryan's boat on Lake Eucumbene. Beautiful weather and we did catch a couple including one stunning looking trout that Ryan got. (*Editor – see cover photo*) I missed a big yabby feeder in the shallows when the hook failed to find any purchase. Pat had several good chances on big browns without success as well.



Saturday night at the brewery was great. Great beers.

Sunday saw us battling big winds up on the Thredbo River. Despite the conditions, we had a good day. We caught a couple and missed quite a few. If the fishing gods were favourable, it could have been a stand out day. Big hopper patterns seem to be the go to fly. Even had a duck show keen interest in my fly and I am sure if I'd left it there, he would have gobbled it. Now, that would be an interesting addition to the little green book.!

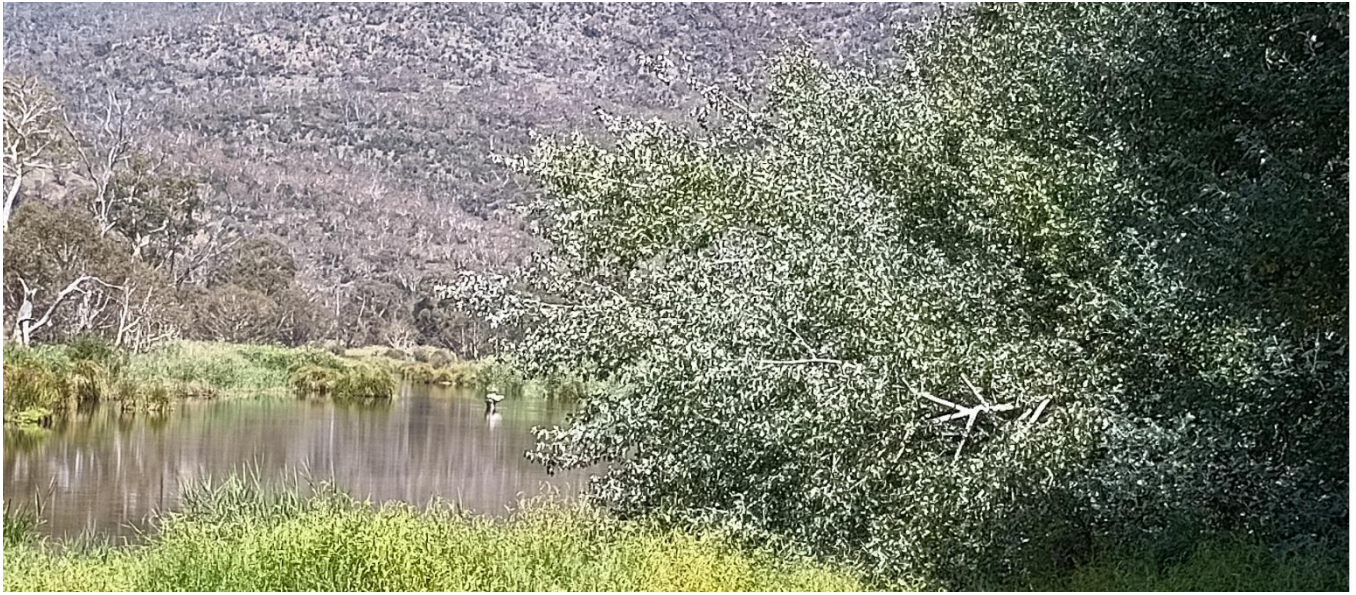
Bill

After a late start, Jason and I arrived close to dark on Friday. A few were in residence and then Alan (not staying with us) popped in and reminded us that the evening rise was forthcoming. Jason and I wandered down to the water's edge a long way down this year. A few fish were rising, though Alan assured me that they were likely to be smaller fish and I should be on the lookout for big dorsal fins - which didn't arrive. Lake Jindy is so low that we discovered later that Curiosity Rocks have become Curiosity Peninsula.



Saturday and folk went their various ways. I was particularly appreciative that BJ and Lachy stepped forward to mentor Xenii and James. I'm sure they learnt a lot - with a healthy mix of conventional and Euro-style.

Jason and I headed to Dalgety - the idea of two sessions fishing surrounding a pub lunch was enticing. Our cunning plan to fish below Dalgety fell in a heap when we found too much private property blocking our way and no-one at home. Instead we went upstream where I managed to find a few fish rising.



One missed strike, one lost after a second or two (hmm, forgot to pause before lifting) and then success with a 39 cm brown. Meanwhile my waders progressively filled up to my waist ... bugger. There followed a great lunch. After looking into the Bobundara to check on flow, we headed to the picnic area on the Thredbo.



My trek downstream was harder than I remember (must be getting old) and the only brown I saw was 1.5m long and thankfully slithering away from. Meanwhile Jason got a nice 31cm brownie (albeit on nymph so it doesn't count 😊)

Saturday night at the Jindy brewery was a roaring success - good suggestion Xenii and BJ.

Sunday was blowing a gale. While we saw some fish rising on the pond at Sponar's we had no luck. Down to Island Bend and the wind was diabolical with no fish in evidence, similar back on the Thredbo at the picnic area and Paddy's Corner ... time to go home.

Fly tying 26 Feb

Well done Ryan – great turn up.





The instructions are on our [flytying blog](#). Here are the results.



Ryan



John



BJ



Claude



Xenii



Xenii



Neil



Lachy

Claude and Gary's Trip to New Zealand

Claude and Gary took an old fishing mate to New Zealand for his first foray. Clearly Claude has had a lot on his plate catching up at work, but he seemed to have convinced Mark to write up his feelings. The report reminded me so much of my first trip to NZ as it may do to others, or perhaps inspire those who haven't been. Many thanks Mark, I'll include it here in full as it is a fascinating tale.

Mark

Fishing NZ when you are a Faulty Fly-Fisherman

A bit of background first. I became interested in fly-fishing in 1998. Intent on getting taught how to do it and not hack my way as had been my approach on many other pastimes, I completed a 6 week course at Canberra TAFE. Bought a Rex Hunt beginners kit, some attractive neoprene thigh waders, a cheap vest and used some old hiking boots. How bad could it turn out? Well, with limited supervision and correction after that course, I developed a heap of bad habits and rarely caught a fish.

Scroll forward to the mid-2000s, I met Gary who was a stakeholder in a project I was running. We were chatting over lunch one day and we discovered a mutual interest in fly-fishing and so

organised a trip to the Snowies. This began a great friendship with several outings each season and I introduced him to several streams in the area - the Moonbah being the lesser known of them all. It also began a period of great suffering for The Maestro, or Broadsword as he likes to be called on the UHF, because he had to endure my inconsistent casting technique, crappy streamcraft, woeful knot tying and so on. He had a revelation one trip when he observed the amount of power I was applying and offered some advice to the effect that I should try being more effeminate in my casting - that actually helped a great deal, but I remained inconsistent and suffered many frustrations.

The Maestro started travelling to NZ many years later and was at me to come along. I didn't think I was anywhere near good enough given all that I'd read about NZ trout and so I declined. A couple of years ago, he told me about a fly-fishing coach that Claude had told him about and suggested that I have a few lessons. It took me until mid-2024 to actually do something about that and I contacted Lyall Crawford of *Capital Fly Casting* for help in June last year. This was after committing to go to NZ this February, just past. (*Editor – yep, our Lyall, see list of sponsors*).

What a discovery Lyall was! A brilliant manner, exceptional knowledge and a genuinely nice bloke, I can say only that Lyall is the complete package and I'm very grateful to him for lifting me out of my fishing despair. Lyall worked with me on a weekly basis for the best part of 6 months, right up until a few days before we headed off to NZ. He not only sorted out (or at least significantly improved) many of my regular casting problems, but he taught and gave me the confidence to use roll casts, roll cast pickups, parachute casts, snake rolls, Snap-Ts and Hamburgers ... unbelievable. I needed this 20+ years ago (so, if you are struggling, just go book some sessions with Lyall without delay!).

So, February arrives and I'm off to meet up with The Maestro and Claude in Queenstown. I spent a few days in the North Island to visit my ageing uncle - after having NZ border control put me through all four entry checkpoints which eventually resulted in a detailed inspection of all my fly gear. Why they didn't just send me to the 'unzip your waders and touch your toes' stage without all the other palaver because I'd declared everything, I have no idea, but it was entralling to queue for nearly 2 hours before getting the all clear.

That behind me, 2 weeks fishing around Wanaka (Otago) and Omarama (Canterbury) beckoned. Day 1 around Wanaka on the Makarowa River was hideous - cold, strong winds, rain. But fish we did. I scared both a modest sized Rainbow and myself by briefly hooking it in a fast flowing riffle, but I saw no other action. It did provide an opportunity to practise my new-found casting skills though. Day 2 on the Matukitiki River was a beautiful day and the river was in



good flow - again, no action for me, so more practice. But I was second guessing the wisdom of going on this trip.

Day 3, we had an early start to travel from Wanaka to Omarama where our AirBnB host had granted us early access. Arrived around 10am, dropped the bags, get changed then off to the Ahuriri River parking near the Clay Cliffs. Claude stayed on the main river; Gary and I headed off across the river in search of some lesser channels. Within 30 minutes, Gary spies a large trout on a beat in a small lagoon and guides me into a kneeling position on the muddy bank. Further direction to freeze as the fish heads towards my position - fair dinkum, it came within 10 feet of me; I'm motionless and looking straight at it; then it sups from the surface and heads back to its beat upstream. Claude arrives and asks if I can execute a parachute cast to a spot just near an overhanging branch - to my great surprise, I manage to land it in a great position. Unfortunately, the fish wasn't there and it doesn't re-appear.

Much walking over bowling ball sized river rocks which is hard on the feet and knees but worth it after I arrived at a beautiful, long shrub-lined pool and the wind blowing in a favourable direction where Gary and Claude are fishing. Gary moves on but Claude suggests that I stay with him and fish that area slowly. Claude nails a decent fish then I get my first NZ fish - a tiddler Rainbow but ... a fish is a fish and the ledger is open. This time on a Parachute Adams. I'm stoked! Move slightly up river and after a couple of casts, there is what to me is a massive strike and pull on my line. 5-weight rod tip seriously bent!

This trout didn't jump out of the water immediately and it felt big, firing around on the bottom of the river. "Keep the pressure on the line" I tell myself while worrying about multiple potential points of failure - the 2 Double Davey knots securing may fly-line to the tippet (via a tippet ring), a Surgeon's knot extending the tippet to another piece of tippet, and a final Double Davey knot attaching the Parachute Adams to the rig. Historically, my fishing knot tying could be defined generously as somewhat poor, so I waiting for the line to go slack as the fish escaped.



Happily, everything held. I managed to get the fish within netting distance and Claude finished the job. Mein Gott! What an experience. A 1kg/2lb Rainbow in beautiful condition. For me, a trophy fish although Gary and Claude subsequently caught 2.5kg/5lb fish and dropped some much larger.

Caught a couple more tiddlers that afternoon, and over the next few days had a couple more hookups but escaped fish on the Tasman River below Mt Cook, Hopkins River above Lake Ohau, Grays River past Tekapo. Back on the Ahuriri River just upstream of where it flows into Benmore Dam, after taking the long way through the boggy marsh near the anglers' access point. We're fishing independently but I catch up to Gary who selflessly tells me that there a

couple of big trout mid-stream under a largish dead tree - difficult to cast accurately but I have a go. I manage to get the fly above the trout and it comes towards it, but won't take it after a couple of goes. Change of fly by Gary (for speed - refer to my knot tying skills) but alas no interest and I eventually spook the fish.

By this time, Claude (or as I now call him, Sensei) arrives and encourages me to cast into the bubble trail upstream of the tree. A few casts, then bang, a big hit. I've been in the habit of retrieving my fish by pulling in the fly line, and did this when catching my first biggun a few days earlier. This time, Gary is 'strongly encouraging' me to get the line onto the reel to let it do its work which I manage to do under great stress ... amazing to work a big trout that way. (25 years ago, I was told by the TAFE instructor that the reel is for holding line, not playing fish, so it was a big paradigm shift for me to change.) Anyway, I land the fish and Claude nets it for me - a bit bigger than the other at 1.2kg, so very happy and grateful to my colleagues for their persistence in helping get me onto bigger fish.

On my final day of fishing, the Thursday before we returned home, we visited the upper regions of the Ahuriri and the wind is blowing a gale. Nonetheless we persevere. I go looking for bends in the river where the wind is blowing across the river, not down into my face. I pick this spot and start off-side snake rolling across onto the far edge of the bubble trail, managing to get the dropper configuration of a Pheasant Tail nymph under an Elk Hair Caddis to land slightly upstream and travel with the current for 15-20 metres. After a few snake rolls, to my enormous surprise, there is another large strike and I work frantically to get the line onto the reel, then play what turns out to be another 1.2kg Rainbow. The Maestro, who is fishing 50 metres downstream at the tail of the run, responds to my excited radio call and bounds up the river. The fish is putting on a wonderful show, eventually jumping out of the river several times, as we both anticipate Gary's arrival. Fish successfully netted, photographed and I'm a happy boy. We persisted for another couple of hours, with Maestro and Sensei both catching decent fish, but that was my last action of the trip.

Coming home, I reflect that I remain a Faulty Fly-fisherman and still suffer from many of my old/bad habits that re-emerge when I'm trying hard. However, I am significantly more skilled but aware of my deficiencies, and I hope to continue being coached by Lyall to help iron them out ... and then master double hauling and other things.

I also have between 20 and 30 Number 1 Critical Things that I must remember when fishing ... check your knots forcefully, check and replace leader and tippet regularly, watch your back cast, STOP THE ROD high, use the rod not more power, shoot the line, actually STRIKE when told to do so, learn to differentiate shadows in a stream as either rocks or fish, turn off the T-Squelch function on your UHF, ask for the Tourist Discount at the New World supermarket in Wanaka, just STOP the Bloody Rod, buy some dry fly powder floatant, the Ahuriri River is MY river ... and I can't remember all of them!

All-in-all, a wonderful trip and experience where I caught more fish than I could have dreamed of, with three far bigger than anything I've caught at home. Very grateful to Maestro Gary for pushing me to go on the trip, getting me onto fish and introducing me to Lyall. And to Sensei Claude for accepting my abilities and devoting a lot of his fishing time to mentoring me on streamcraft and landing fish. If they'll have me, I'll go again - just not every year as my knees must recover from the bowling ball style river rocks and tussock lumps.



Claude and BJ – BJ the Carpenator

Claude



Eager for some action on the water, BJ reached out to Claude for an early morning carp fishing trip on Sunday. BJ picked up Claude and they headed to Uriarra Crossing, aiming to beat the heat. They decided to wet wade and, after a 15-minute hike, began rigging their rods for the adventure ahead. The Molonglo River was crystal clear, a stark contrast to the conditions during the club carp event. BJ ventured upstream while Claude focused on the confluence of the

Molonglo and Murrumbidgee Rivers, noting the Murrumbidgee was much cloudier.



Carp started emerging from the shadows, but with no wind and clear water, they were quite skittish – despite the use of 15 ft leaders. BJ remained vigilant and patient, making several fly changes before finally hooking a solid 6.5lb carp. Despite numerous sightings of schools of over ten fish, it was a frustrating experience with many refusals, though it provided good casting practice. BJ eventually hooked another fish, about half the size of the first. The rest of the trip was marked by the sight of many fish, but none were interested in the myriad of flies presented.

NSWCFA Mini-Conference – Sat 8 Mar

This was [mentioned in our News blog](#). At latest count eight CAA members are attending. There may be spaces left but you'll have to hurry – registration and payment is required by 1 Mar. Breaking news is that Luke Pearce, from DPIRD's Threatened Species Unit will be speaking.

From Greg S

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1175248860628594&set=a.377051703781651>

A particularly ugly Blob Fish courtesy of Trapman Australia and Facebook

Also what is left of a Whale Shark after the sharks hit it courtesy of Trapman Australia and Facebook again

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1172433484243465&set=a.377051710448317>

Jumping with fish <https://www.facebook.com/reel/942364584486114>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/rural/2025-02-19/proposed-vfa-cuts-spark-illegal-fishing-increase-fears/104949706> (Editor: Greg sent me this, and I thought it would be of limited interest given it is Victoria, but immediately afterwards the topic became a hot item within 'fishing politics' circles. Victoria is held up as a shining light for recreational fishing with massive stockings and removal of commercial netting in estuaries, but this development might impact.)

CSIRO has been working on a new aquaculture species <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-23/pompano-fish-species-unveiled-by-csiro/104957538>

Other Stuff in my In-box

I got an email from Jaime along with a scan from a journal called 'Birdlife'. I can't reproduce it here due to copyright, but the thrust of the story was expressing concern over discarded fishing line entrapping birds. It behoves us to take care of our rubbish discarding line in a responsible manner. As Ben, of Youtube *Huge Flyfisherman* would encourage, we should all pick up trash, even other peoples', and leave our fishing spots cleaner than when we arrive. It impacts on a vulnerable social licence. The article pointed the reader to

<https://biocollect.ala.org.au/acsa/project/index/43b52a65-7d07-42c1-9c0c-4b967cfce53c?&hub=acsa>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/science/2025-02-17/warming-ocean-reducing-eastern-blue-groper-numbers-study/104938774> - Blue Groper became a political brouhaha. Regulations were changed pending further study, due for review this year.

Past President Jason (the M version rather than Q) and he's already hitting the local lakes in his pack raft.



Message from Claude in New Zealand: "Caught two brownies 20 m behind Gary today. One on dry, one on nymph. Reminds me of another outing". *He's just teasing me by referring to a time on the upper Bidgee when he caught the best fish immediately behind me – I think a trophy winner that year.*

NO-SEE-UM Fly Tying Tutorial – looks almost simple enough that I'd could manage it.

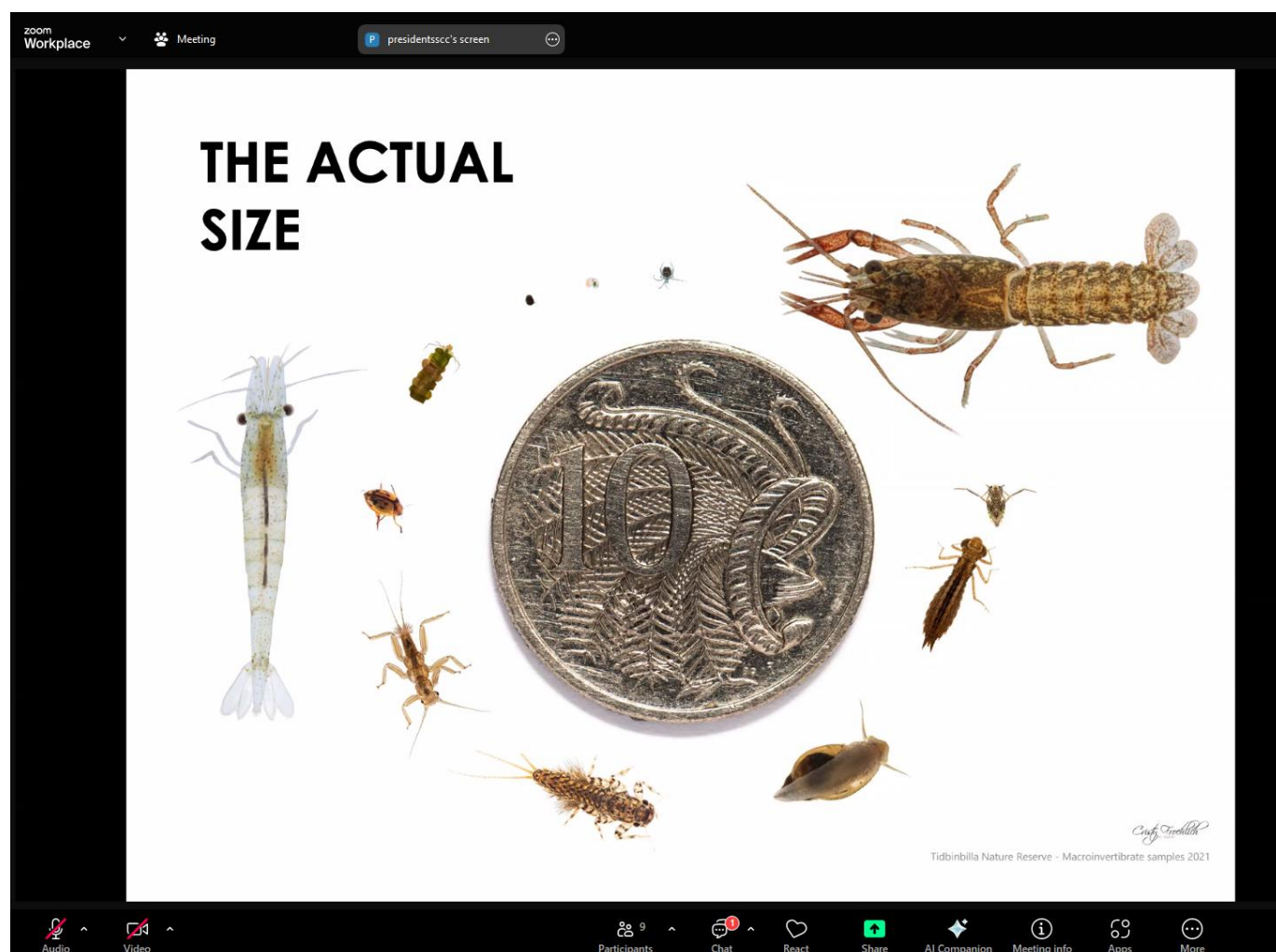
<https://youtu.be/vlmm4b4sdYE?feature=shared>

For those in Instagram. An alternative approach to tying the parachute

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDzVZ63pdeD/?igsh=MWk2Z3lwZXUxcjFqYQ==>

I'm a member of the Southside Camera Club and I was expecting the February meeting would be a heavy session on photography technology/technique, but it turned out to be something very relevant to us in the club. Cristy Froehlich is a member of Waterwatch and takes photos of waterbugs for various projects. Check out

<https://www.cristyfroehlichphotography.com/exhibitions>



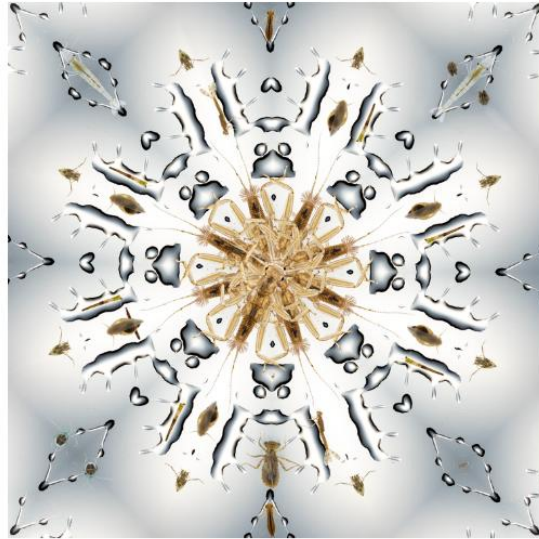
From her presentation

Exhibition



Tidbin-bugs
\$950.00

Purchase



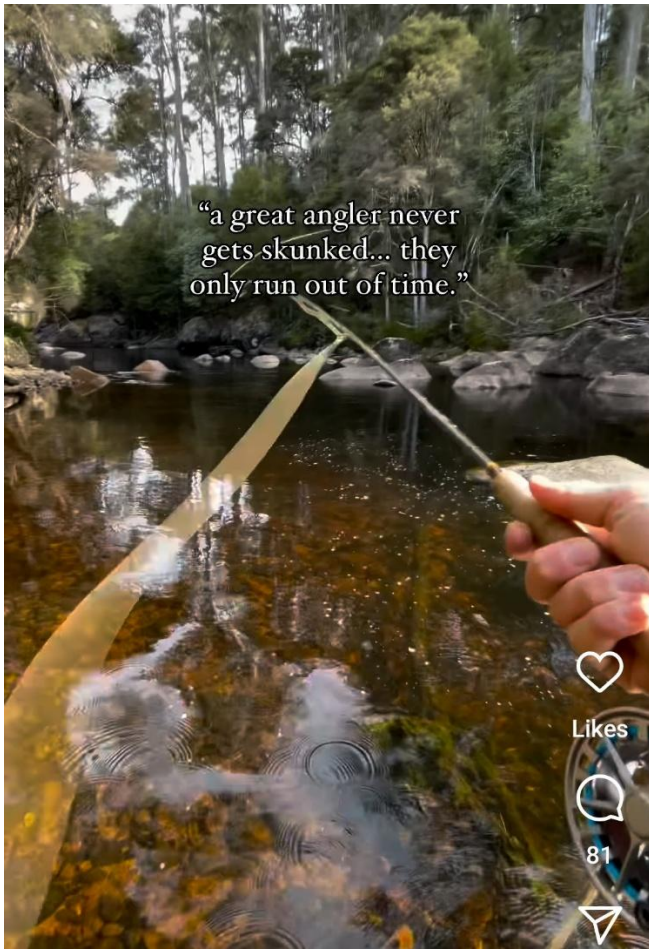
My World (exhibition piece)
\$99.00

Purchase

Her website – both scientific and artistic renditions

Pat left our Jindy trip and immediately headed to NZ. Seems to be doing well.





An amazing tie by Ryan – accusations of a natural speared by the hook.

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.

[Fish Fishing Comp Burrinjuck](#)

Lots of prizes on offer at this local comp – 21-23 March.

[Fly Tying 27 Nov 2024](#)

My error, this should have appeared in the December Newsletter – Wulff variants led by BJ.

[Carp Newsletter](#)

Sign up for the Victorian Fishing Authority's newsletter on the carp situation.

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

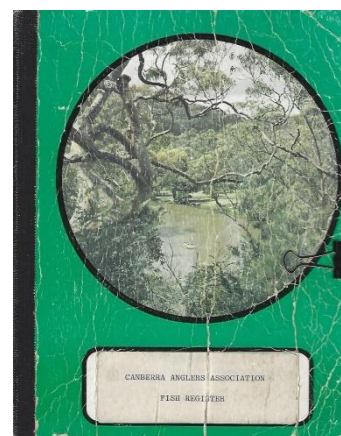
our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest to members, please email *Burley Line*.

Dates	Event Details
various	The NSW DPI Kids' and Women's Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne were in a hiatus during the construction but our now back – though none currently scheduled. There are saltwater and freshwater events across the state. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
Watch for next year	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

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
Bill	Brown	39cm	Fly	Jindy event 22-23 Feb
Jason	Brown	31cm	Fly	Jindy event 22-23 Feb
James	Brown	36cm	Fly	Jindy event 22-23 Feb

Contact Us

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

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Find us on

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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