

# THE BURLEY LINE



**Past President Geoff in New Zealand**



# From the Editor's Desk

The numbers for our Brindabella trip seemed to drop away from our normal turnout – I wonder what happened there. Many thanks Ryan for setting it up, even if you weren't able to attend.

Meantime, a couple of reports on private trips: KNP and brief notes on NZ. April fly tying images and instructions were on our news blog, but the session didn't go ahead. CAA is expanding its use of WhatsApp – information and some ground rules here. Some notes on ACT fishing regulation compliance. NSWCFR have released some notes/links to presentations from the mini-conference last month. Greg S' Facebook finds plus my in-box.

## Coming Events

**Meeting: 14<sup>th</sup> May.**

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom if the demand is there (contact the President if Zoom is desired).

**Fly Tying: 28<sup>th</sup> May – Sex Dungeon.**

Announced on our [News blog](#). The tie has some exotic materials and Claude is assembling some packs for pre-purchase. Contact Claude for more info and order a pack.

### Next Events

**23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May.** Stefan is taking us to Tumut – more details via email.

## Brindabella Trip – 11 – 13 Apr

### Lachy

It was rather light on for CAA Club members attending this year. Thanks to Ryan for teeing it up, but unfortunately even Ryan was unable to attend. So it was left to Rod, BJ and Lachy to take advantage of the situation.

Things got off to a slow start with Rod getting a puncture on his way out,





necessitating a return to Canberra and what resulted in a new tyre – bit more of a costly weekend than anticipated. Even though it's not too far on from Piccadilly Circus, the dirt road on the NSW side of the boarder is littered with sharp rock, so it pays to deflate the tyres a bit.

Lachy arrived later than anticipated and consequently didn't hit the water until 1600. Fishing the front stretches of water near the huts, he managed to pick up 10 fish in just under an hour and a half. Yes Bill, they were all caught by euro nymphing! The fish were definitely on the smaller side ranging from fingerlings up to about 25 cm. The good news was that the fish were back and biting! Having been to the property in mid-March, the fish were definitely not as active in the warmer month of March.



Rod and BJ arrived a little later and no more fish were caught on Friday, although a selection of whiskies were put on the table and a wee dram or two enjoyed by all.

The rest of the weekend proved very fruitful, especially on the upstream reaches of the property. The water was very low and gin clear, but the good thing was that it was cool. So there were fish



to be found, but not many rising. Most of the fish seemed to be holding in shallow riffles where the surface water was distorted. This certainly lent more towards nymphing, both indicator and euro, but the euro nymphing proved to be most effective. Lachy managed to get 20 fish in 3 hours on Saturday morning. These fish again ranged from fingerlings, tiddlers up to a maximum of about 28cm. Both browns, but predominantly rainbows. Rod and BJ also had success to varying degrees.

A spot of tragedy then struck on late on Saturday afternoon with Lachy hitting a snag and snapping the upper mid rod section of his favourite 10' 2wt nymph rod. Consolation was in the form of more drams of whiskey with property owners Pete and Fran joining in around the campfire. Pete and Fran were thrilled to hear of the uptick in fish being caught. It also was understandable for the majority of fish caught being on the smaller side given the impacts of the cormorant plague last year, but the success of stocking that was also done in 2024. Fran noted that only rainbows were stocked in 2024, so the smaller browns that were caught would have been naturally wild fish.

BJ



*Rod Kennett is the lone caster.*



I think I touched 6 fish for the weekend and saw one 2ft-er + a couple of 1fters slip by in the deep, up in the gorge of the KNP border.

Euro Nymphing techniques were clearly most effective techniques in very shallow water in the



hands of a master- Lachy. It worked for me on a couple of fish. He even brought a guest (British Mil Attaché) down on Sunday (with permission) who also won a few decent catches.

## Easter With Paul

### Paul

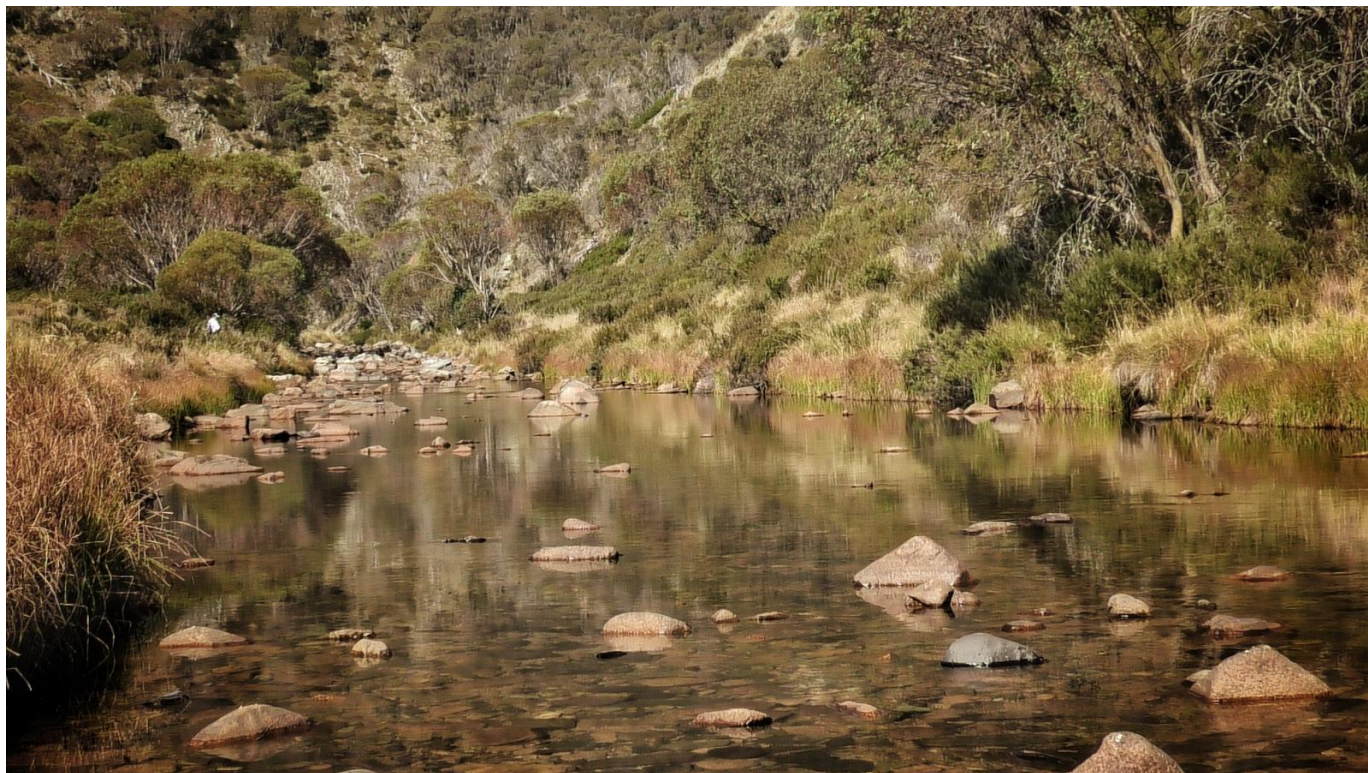
Went up into the KNP over Easter. Walking into a remote valley. Had the whole river to ourselves despite the car park being full. Fishing was a bit quiet. Plenty of 10 inch 10 pounders to keep us busy.

*(Editor: I have been advised that 10 inch ten pounders are little browns that act like they are 10 pounders).*

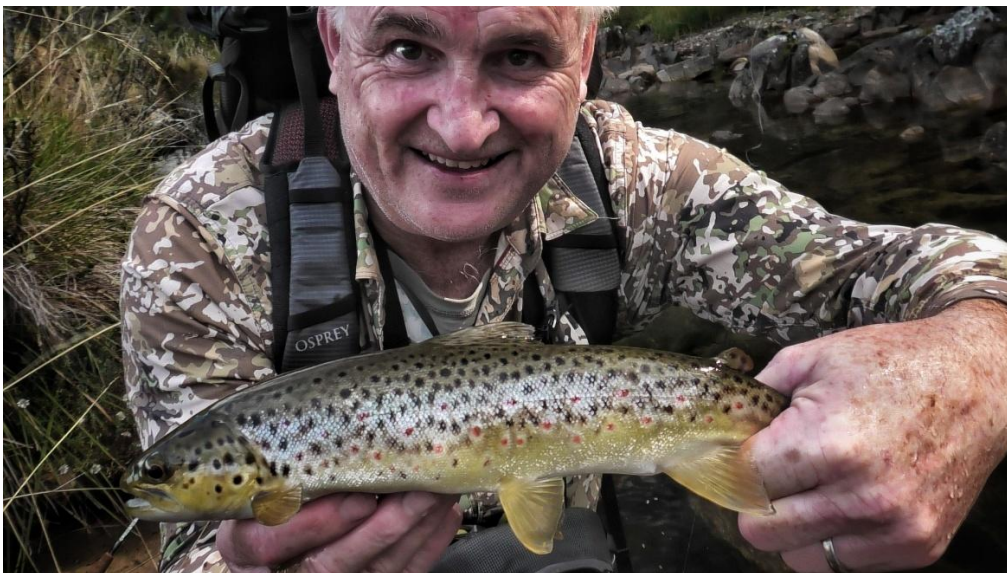




The location and the solitude made for it. Magnificent. The walk out really tested us. What an amazing resource we have on our doorstep.









# The Mighty Mataura in March

## Lyll

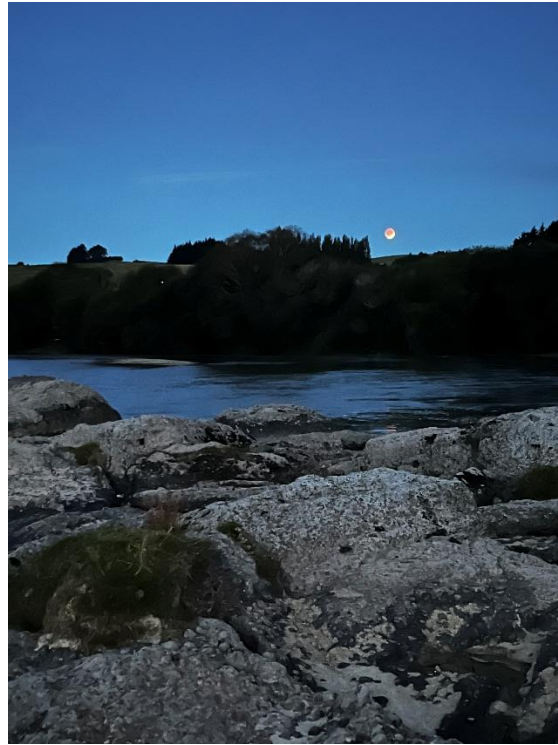
At the outset it was going to be a fly fishing and casting trip – at least for me. Changeable wind direction and changes in current made the Mataura in Southland New Zealand the perfect playground for single and double Speys, all the snap casts, simple rolls and snake roll casts – a cast for every occasion !!!

A Sage Trout Spey two handed rod was great for dealing with the wind and getting easy distance across the river presenting dries or nymphs. Fishing solo doesn't allow boasting photos so the "rod on rocks" version will have to do:



Being honest, some days were fishless and, nonetheless keeping up the casting, the focus turned to the fantastic location we had been given. Rising fish as darkness fell in one direction and a rising blood moon in the other ... and, yes, the rising fish ate the dry.





A day in the company of Barry Perkins of Fly Fish Mataura was an absolute ball. See International Fishing Guides at <https://capitalflycasting.com/links> As well as being a top guy, Barry provides second to none access and up to the minute knowledge about what is rising where. With Barry behind the shutter, this mirror pool yielded two chunky fish on dries contributing to a five fat fish day all caught single hand Spey style.



Of the three anglers on the trip, a Canberra guy named Ian was the undisputed champion ... but I will leave that story to him!!!



## Fly Tying 23 Apr – Sunken Ant, Corn Fed Caddis



Materials etc were advised on our [news blog](#).

For various reasons this session didn't go ahead. Lachy will save the preparation for another time.

## New Zealand with Some CAA Gurus

### Bill

I won't bore you with too many photos – firstly that impressive fish of past President Geoff's on the cover. It was measured at 25 inches and 18.5 inches girth. Based on the calculator at <https://fiveriverstu.org/fish-weight-calculator> this would indicate 10.7lb. Certainly an impressive catch towards the end of the trip. Meanwhile here is life member Stuart with a nice one from a little stream. I got a few on the first day, and we all had one marvellous day on the Whitestone River with plenty of eager rainbows on dry but ... almost the entire fortnight was high winds/high and dirty water. We always argue the benefits of staying for a fortnight, but even with that extended period, we were forced to travel long distances to get to good water. I can only recall a handful of duns on the water – very out of character for this time of year/this fishery.







*Mataura 'just a little up and dirty'*

This was our first experience of New Zealand's new voluntary beat system. They've invested a lot in it with comprehensive signs at access points. Parking your car here indicates that a beat is occupied though you can feel free to follow the earlier angler. The signs give a satellite view to show the extent of the beat. Near the water are markers for the start/end of beats. The beats are marked as red or blue for clarity between adjacent beats. Sometimes there are orange ones which have no controls.





# ACT Fishing Regulation Compliance

Claude attended a meeting between various local fishing club Presidents and Danny Spelic, our new chief compliance officer. There has been much news on social media of increased compliance efforts – at this stage mainly educative rather than penalising. One very hot topic relates to the differences between NSW and ACT regulations in relation to the number of rods that can be in possession (by that I understand within 10 metres) which has got the kayak community a bit agitated. They feel that two rods are insufficient.

The current legislation can be found here [Fisheries Act 2000 | Acts](#). The current brochure can be found here [Recreational Fishing in the ACT brochure 2025](#).

Please note that we were advised that they are in the process of further updating the Brochure which should be available soon.

## CAA is Expanding our WhatsApp Presence

Members of the committee have noticed that use of WhatsApp for the Fly Tying Group and specific club events has received very positive feedback. We are going to trial a general club WhatsApp group to share member catches, provide a Q&A opportunity and general chat and notice board for activities such as upcoming club events. Claude (President) will be the Forum Moderator and has publicised the 'Group Rules' (below). This is an 'Opt In' group – please email President to register.

For those readers unaware of what WhatsApp is, or concerned over using it, can learn more at <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WhatsApp>

It is owned by Meta (Facebook) and provides quite a wide range of end-to-end encrypted messaging capabilities. The current CAA groups use only a small portion of its functions: for textual chatting and exchange of images/documents.

### Canberra Anglers Association – WhatsApp Rules

1. Keep It Reel: This group is for all things fly fishing—casts, catches, tips, trips, gear talk, and the occasional fishy exaggeration. If it doesn't have fins, maybe don't post it.
2. Respect the Riverbank (and Each Other): Friendly banter is part of the game, but keep it respectful. No casting shade unless it's over a trout stream.
3. No Spot Spoilers: Fly fishing spots are sacred. Don't post GPS locations unless you're happy to share with the whole club (and half of Canberra).
4. Catch Pics Welcome (with Proof): We love seeing your catch! Just make sure the fish is real and not photoshopped from Google Images. Bonus points for artistic angles.
5. Trip Planning = Gold: Planning an outing? Post clear details (date, time, location, waders or no waders) and who's bringing the snacks.
6. No Politics, No Drama, Just Fish: We're here for the serenity, not the Senate. Keep debates about fly patterns, not parliament.



7. Keep it Clean: Language, content, and fishing gear. No offensive posts or fly/tackle box-box tantrums.

8. Admins = Committee: They help keep things flowing smoother than a mountain stream. Respect their calls and give them fewer reasons to use the “remove” button.

9. Fly Fishing Advice Encouraged: Ask questions, share tips, show off your fly-tying skills—whether you’re a seasoned caster or just learning to untangle your first leader.

10. Stay Hooked: Be active, have fun, and remember—every cast is a fresh chance. Even if you catch nothing but weeds.

## NSWCFA Mini-conference Outcomes

Lachy has previously reported on his observations. Now the Council has released its notes including links to presentations/news reporting.

*Thank you for attending the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers ‘Fishing for the Future’ Conference last month.*

*We were grateful to Gaden Trout Hatchery for use of their visitor centre for the conference, the presentation by hatchery manager Mitchel Elkins and his guided tour of the facility. There is a video about the Gaden Trout Hatchery [at this link](#).*

*We are also grateful to the presenters who prepared excellent presentations, travelled to the conference and presented on the day:*

### **Local Land Services**

*Antia Brademann, Facilitator for the Upper Murrumbidgee Demonstration Reach, and Michelle Janes, Senior Project and Programs Officer, South East Local Land Services, attended the conference. Antia presented on the rehabilitation work being done on the Upper Murrumbidgee between Tantangara Dam and the ACT border. You can see Antia’s presentation [at this link](#).*

### **DPIRD**


*Luke Pearce, Senior Fisheries Manager Habitat Rehabilitation from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development presented on the work he is doing to bring bluenose, AKA trout cod, back into our river systems. You can view a video about his work is [on YouTube at this link](#).*

*The NSW government has released a Trout Cod Action Plan, which you can read [at this link](#).*

### **Fisheries Research and Development Corporation**

*Kris Cooling, Extension Officer from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation had planned to attend and present at the conference but unfortunately couldn’t make it due to Tropical Cyclone Alfred causing him a few worries at home on the NSW North Coast. However he did send his presentation, [which you can read here](#).*





*The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, or FRDC, is the federal government's fishing agency, covering commercial and recreational fishing and aquaculture. You can read more about it [on their website](#).*

### **Australian Trout Foundation**

*Dr Paul Stolz, chair of the Australian Trout Foundation gave an excellent off-the-cuff presentation during the conference. He spoke about the many projects that the ATF has been involved in, mainly in Victoria, and how the ATF has organised its projects, administration and membership. You can read more about the ATF [on their website](#).*

### **Media release**

*After the event we sent a [media release](#) to local newspaper, the Monaro Post, [which got good coverage](#). We also sent it to our affiliates and hope all clubs will distribute to their members.*

## **From Greg S**

Greg has been trawling Facebook

### **Greg S**

Unbelievable footage of sharks jumping out of the water  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=1213433487069554>

Another style of fishing

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1730027021224427>

Jumping Kingfish

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1211888880945216>

Not sure what these are perhaps Australian Salmon?  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/3964385033888771>

Synchronised swimming of a different kind

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/2069846653500898>



# Other Stuff in my In-box

Some April Fools stuff and later a familiar face in unfamiliar surroundings



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Suggested for you

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Liked by oceanally71 and others  
redshedcbr 🚩 Warning from the team at Red Shed 🚩

🐋 An estimated whopping 6m long shark spotted in Lake Burley Griffin! Maybe a Great White? We're rowing experts, not biologists 🤔

"We don't know where it came from, or how it got here, but this guy is giving Jaws a run for his money" said Rowing Coach Lachie Millar.



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Andrew Phillips caught this 49kg prawn off Woodgate Beach last night.



😄👍👏 344

86 comments 29 shares

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💬 Comment

➦ Share



The new CAA WhatsApp channel has been running hot. Here is James' first yellowbelly. 61.5cm! 87.4% on our [Native Fish Assessment](#) – gotta be a contender for a trophy.

One that I saw on Facebook. Using a drone to spot for big flathead – hardly fair 😊

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/164aogrRxJ/>

I got from Peter [material on the Stocky Galaxia](#) – a somewhat recently identified critically endangered native becoming a greater interest in the context of Snowy Hydro 2.0.



*Paul and I are in agreement with [HugeFly-Fisherman](#) avoiding the term 'buttery' even if it is true*







*Same with using the word 'eat' as a noun. May just be acceptable if you are using chicken nuggets as bait.*

## 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.

### [Workshop to establish a statutory body to represent the recreational fishing sector](#)

NSW Recreational Fishing Alliance are conducting a workshop to develop the most appropriate body to represent recreational anglers in NSW.

### [Demarcation Point Between Dam and Stream](#)

Guidance from DPIRD Fisheries.



## 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.

[April edition](#) published. Top points:

- RFA of NSW running a workshop to develop an alternative model for Peak Body representing recreational anglers
- DPIRD are seeking public comment on freshwater stocking
- Updated Key Fish Habitat Spatial Dataset is now available
- Next NSW CFA Quarterly General Meeting on May 17th. Lachy and Neil are our reps

### 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](#)

[April edition](#) published. Top points:

- Angler Access, crown land etc



- Legislating a recreational fishing voice in NSW ... stakeholder workshop in Sydney on 6 May
- NSWCFR mini-conference summary
- Trout cod action plan
- New Recreational Fishing Trust Advisory Council to oversee expenditure on recreational fishing funds

### 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

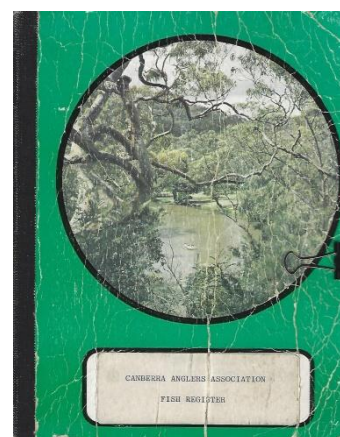
Provided for your calendar planning, members can see the diversity of angling events available to attend and some might even choose to get a CAA group together to attend an event outside our formal calendar which would broaden our horizons greatly. If anyone spots a non-CAA event that might be of interest 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 are now back – though none currently scheduled. 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 later in the year	Buckenderra's "Anaconda Trout Challenge". Check out their Facebook page and go back to November <a href="https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage">https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage</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
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



James	Golden Perch	61.5cm (87.4 score)		Googong 25 Apr
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## 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.



*Capital Fly Casting*

  
[www.capitalflycasting.com](http://www.capitalflycasting.com)