

# THE BURLEY LINE



**Neil holidaying in Tassie**



## From the Editor's Desk

I thought the Christmas/New Year period might be pretty quiet with no meetings and only one club event, but there was a lot going on in our social media accounts. If you aren't there already, you should think about joining our WhatsApp channels.

Thanks to Claude for organising our carp event, and providing the report. Was fun to watch the images get around to the participants in real time on the event Whatsapp channel inspiring everyone to put in their best shots. Great to see a good roll up.

Two extended reports (also for inclusion in our 'places' blog) from Paul and Jason make for interesting reading. What is notable is the lack of rainbows this season so far.

There's also a snippet on hints for beginners in the local area.

Much appreciate Greg S's continued support over the break – some really interesting stuff here.

## Coming Events

**Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

First meeting of the year – as usual 7:30PM at Raiders Weston. Join us for dinner at 6:00 or 6:30?

**13-15 Feb.** Our annual trip to the Snowies staying in East Jindabyne. More information was sent via email – register soon as spaces are limited.

## Old Trophies



Recently the committee decided it needed to clear up space in Lyall's garage, so the obsolete trophies needed a new home. The offer was made to previous winners to take them home for posterity. Once such trophy was the Mick Cornick which had been won many times by current members Mark and Norm. In the end, it was Mark who took it home. The trophy was a bit damaged and Mark arranged for repairs. A photo was taken of the repaired trophy and a framed version was presented by Mark back to Norm for his wall.

## CAA Carp Fishing Event 18 Jan 26 – A Cracking Day on the Water!

Claude's report with minimal editing ... "Camera Anglers"????

### Claude

The annual 'Camera Anglers Association Cup' fishing day was held on '18 January 2026', and what an awesome turnout we had – '13 keen anglers' hit the water this year...despite the strong winds!

Big shout-out to everyone who came along: 'Bill, Peter, Aru, Mika, BJ, Bob, Lyall, Greg, Jeff, Claude, Owen, Hector and Sally. An absolutely fantastic crew.





## 'Team Hector – The Molonglo Adventurers'



Team Hector (Claude, Owen, Hector, and Sally) kicked off their morning with a short walk down to the 'Molonglo', where they were greeted by 'crystal-clear water' – perfect carp territory.

Hector spotted the first fish sneaking out of the Murrumbidgee and into the Molonglo, setting the tone for the adventure. With scrub thick along the banks, the team waded upriver, spotting their first school of carp soon after. Hector and Owen put in a solid effort, drifting woolly buggers and a few other flies in front of the carp's noses, but the carp just weren't playing the game.

We found another pod sheltering under a willow, and while there were a few exciting follows, the fish continued their masterclass in "look but don't touch." The final pod of the day offered some heart-stopping moments with a few big ones cruising right in front of us, but still no takers.

'Next time?' We might mix it up with a bit of bread burley and drift some bread flies if the buggers aren't getting the attention. Special shoutout to Sally who was full of cheer and walking in the river on the day!





### 'BJ – Tough Times on the Murrumbidgee'



BJ headed to the Murrumbidgee, but visibility was down, and the fishing was tough. He tried everything – multiple fly patterns, different approaches, and even pulled out the baitcaster to see if a native might be tempted. Unfortunately, it just wasn't his day.



### 'Team Queanbeyan – A Scenic Walk (and Lots of Casting Practice)'

Jeff and Greg explored the Queanbeyan River, hopeful for some carp action. While the scenery was great, the carp were definitely *\*not\** home. No sightings meant plenty of casting practice... and probably a few discussions about where they *\*should\** have gone instead!



### 'Team Bob – Lake Lounging and Solid Results'



Team Bob, guided by Lyall, enjoyed a cruisy morning by the lake. Bob managed to hook a couple of carp on bait, with his best measuring a very respectable '52 cm'. A quality session and a relaxing one at that.



### 'Team Aru – The Day's Big Winners'



The standout performers of the day were 'Team Aru' (Aru, Mika, Bill, and Peter). Fishing with bait near the Molonglo inflow into 'Lake Burley Griffin', they absolutely cleaned up – 'over 10 carp landed', with every team member contributing.

Aru scored the biggest of the day at '59 cm', closely followed by Peter with a '58 cm' beauty. Peter also took out the prize for most fish caught, landing at least 'seven carp', most of them over 50 cm. A cracking effort!



### 'Wrapping Up at The Lighthouse'

To finish the day, four of us gathered at 'The Lighthouse in Belconnen' to swap stories, brag about the "ones that got away," and discuss tactics for next time. It's always great to catch up, laugh, and reflect on a day well spent.



### 'Thanks Everyone!'

A huge thank-you to everyone who joined in and made the day such a success. We hope to see all of you – and maybe a few new faces – at the next event.



## Seen on our CAA Whatsapp

If you aren't on the CAA Whatsapp channel you might want to join and see this stuff in real time – show off your catches in the midst of a club event even. Ask Claude.

Some of our new juniors have been getting success down the coast



Hector was pretty chuffed to catch his first Luderick at the coast, on squid at Mossy point!



Aru had a good time at Bateman's Bay. (Actually this one came direct to me)



From Lachy on the CAA Fly Tying Whatsapp

*For all you die hard dry fly purists, I've been tying some dries for the NZ trip next year. This mayfly imitation pattern is called the Jimmy Hendrickson by the Old Dominion Trout Bum. I just added the pink sighter material.*

[https://youtu.be/UxuYQCf9\\_OU?si=QMe9JrLAqJz68ja0](https://youtu.be/UxuYQCf9_OU?si=QMe9JrLAqJz68ja0)





I'm not sure how many of you follow Ash Allen's Crazy Trout Hunterz group but there was an interesting photo from a recent Eucumbene Trip.

One reader commented "You've got great fly tying skills as well bud 😊" heehee


From Neil: *"Happy New Year all! Tassie adventures going well on the Mersey River"*  
(See also photo of the month)



From Xenii and James *"No noses were harmed in the sniffing of these crabs"*

From Owen (sorry, no photos) “Beach and Rock fishing around Batemans Bay a bit slow. Two mornings on the bay boatramp breakwall rocks not much happening, best was a reasonable flathead. Not many boats active or good reports. Fished Bengello beach yesterday for only a few small darts.” Followed next day with “Calm pleasant conditions now that the southerly aspect has passed at the Clyde R Breakwall this morning and higher tide. Managed a couple nice bream , taylor and flathead, also whiting on the beach where there was no sign 2 days ago.” BJ reckons “Great stuff Owen. That’s a smorgasbord and another reminder how much passing weather impacts all fishing. We couldn’t even get a Carp to bite on NY day when they were in packs of several.”

Thanks Jayden for advising the YouTube link for the presentation at Boss Outdoors by three time Czech world fly fishing champion Katka Švagrová on all things Euro Nymphing. (goes for 1hour 40min)



**Euro Nymphing with Katka Švagrová**

**Boss Outdoor**  
745 subscribers [Subscribe](#)

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1K views 1 month ago BOSS OUTDOOR CANBERRA  
Join three time Czech world fly fishing champion Katka Švagrová at Boss Outdoor Canberra as she talks all things Euro Nymphing.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZfp87adkQE>



Pat has been successful on dry on the Thredbo





And Paul “More dryfly action. From dawn midge eaters to big terrestrials fished in rough windy conditions.”



## Lake Eucumbene on Dry

The dynamic duo has been at it again, locally.

Pat



I was lucky enough to spend some time fishing at this wonderful lake over the last few weeks. It can be a very fickle lake to fish for large parts of the year, but on its day, it can produce some amazing fishing. The last few weeks have produced some excellent dry fly fishing to trout cruising the edges. The culprit for this fishing bonanza is the grasshopper. A plague of them to be exact. The right combination of stable water level, grassy banks down the water's edge, benign water temperatures (up until last week!), and a steady wind has produced a constant stream of hoppers that get stranded on the lakes' surface. Brown trout are quick to identify a food source and were quick to get on the hopper train.



Although hoppers were the primary diet, trout were looking up and were willing to eat a variety of terrestrial insects. The technique was simple. Find a nice grassy bank, preferably one that has not been fished for a few hours, and with a good population of hoppers on it. Walk the edge until you see a trout cruising along the bank. They are often only a couple of meters from the edge and in about ½ meter of water. Cast your hopper or beetle imitation and watch the fish slide up and sip in your fly, lift your rod and feel the weight of the fish

Next thing you know, the long forgotten dusty backing is rattling out through the guides!



Not all the fish were that easy. Just getting front of the fish required galloping along the bank to get in a position to cover the fish. They were cruising very quickly. Many displayed typical unnecessary brown trout pickiness and needed a change of fly to something smaller to entice a take. We observed several fish on enormous beats. Travelling several hundred meters before returning along the same path. Patience proved worthwhile when waiting for the fish to return.





The windward rocky headlands were a surprise. We caught several nice fish fishing blind from a barren rocky shoreline. There is something surreal in watching a 4 pound trout rise-up from the depths to pluck a size 4 madam X from the surface whilst the wind and waves pound the shoreline.





(Editor, this has been uploaded to our 'Places' blog too <https://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/?p=5984&preview=true>)

## Great Dividing Range Fishing

Jason recorded his recent adventures coming back from the Tropics.

### Jason

Following Xmas and NY, it was then time to pack for a trip north - 4.5 tackle trays, three reels, and 1.5 rods and a packraft got included. With a teenager onboard, there wasn't any fishing on the way up (but some big downpours). However, I hoped to get a number of trips in once up there, and take a week on the way south to do some fishing, particularly in northern and central NSW which is usually skipped on the run to get back to Canberra.

Arriving in Central Queensland, my parents' tinnie hadn't been used since 2022, so it was a little of getting the cobwebs and gumleaves out. I did get some casting practice in where the freshwater flowed into the salt (fishing for mangrove jacks, with the barra season closed in saltwater), but it was pretty quiet.



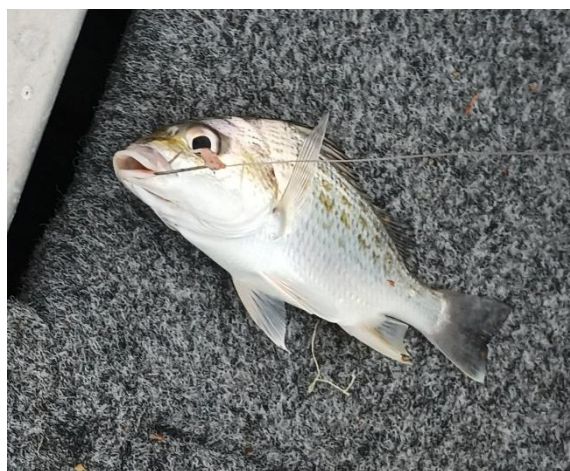
Our junior angler and I tried Awoonga Dam for a shakedown, trolling some lures, and casting into a backwater area where a creek flowed in (and out of the wind). Although \$100,000 was on offer for catching tagged barramundi, we only got a few trees, but saw some nice blobs on the sounder - I like to think they were big barra rather than freshwater turtles - but many of them we down deep. Fun was had in the bow on the bouncy ride back at 20 knots as we skipped across the waves.

The rain from Cyclone Koji slowed the fishing down a bit, and my hope for a Dawson Saratoga was fading with flooding on the McKenzie River (where I learnt to cast rattling lures and minnows for yellowbelly) flowing down to there and the Fitzroy, at 10m and rising where I used to fish.

I'd visited one of the rivers/boatramps once the cyclone/depression rain stopped, but the tide was heading out, with only a few fish for the cast net (and potential rocks to catch the net), and then met a kid who was also carrying a net (& had already caught ...and released a mangrove jack). I settled for casting one of my Christmas Decoration Flies, until it eventually snagged on a submerged tree. So, I enjoyed a sunny swim at the beach and grabbed some Tweed Bait prawns with the hope of luring my junior angler out before he flew home, but it was down to the day of departure to use them up.

I managed another trip out to Awoonga, aiming to wet a line in the same area and see if the rise in water level and creek flow attracted any fish - nope. I did find a boat or two fishing the old river line where it was deeper and I thought I'd seen a barra. With daylight darkening from clouds, and an hour or so to sunset I headed back. The Friday afternoon, I counted 28 boat trailers, so the dam was getting good use, but only 5 boats were visible - I assume most were at the back of the dam, for those wondering on such a large dam where they might start.

Although I was heading off home the following Monday, after some family celebrations, I managed an early morning trip, hoping to catch some of the high tide and use up the prawns. After finding a nice corner and flooding tide of the mud into a backwater, I tossed out a prawn in the deep water and cast a DIY surface lure into the mangroves. Then the lure was snagged on a mangrove, so I motored in, tangled the bait, and realised the anchor line wasn't attached in this boat and my niece called to say goodbye. Fortunately, all but one bean sinker was recovered, followed by a small grunter, and then a couple of different bream ...and no takes on the lures casting or the troll back to the boatramp.



*A bream, and a grunter, align with the fishing report from Boyne Island Tackle & Bait. Blue salmon had also been coming in on the high tide before the cyclone arrived.*

After cleaning the boat and packing the mangos, it was time to do the fishing road trip home. I'd picked a few spots along the way to wet a line, and survey for future fishing. One key aspect was the previous number of NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers' invites to Ebor, so it was a key aspect, along with collecting some rod-building bits on the way. I'd also reclaimed my old Darwin baitcaster rod, to make up for the lack of the other half-rod, leveraging the number of rods I'd left at my parents' previously. BTW, soda/mineral water on a stuck carbon fibre rod does help separate the pieces (I used a sugar free mineral water).

My first stop was Mingo Crossing (over Bjelke Petersen Dam area for barra and saratoga and perch), 3-4 hours away. About a decade ago I found a town (maybe Monto) with a river in the middle, but Monto Caravan Park wasn't overtly taking tents and with Toowoomba now on my plan, a little out of the way. The Mingo Crossing Rec Area had a bad review, but the caravan park had good reviews, which appeared on Google Maps as a street or two back from the water. Interestingly, most of the rivers in the Burnett /Darling Downs were dry, but fields were green. I arrived to dusk to 'Welcome to Paradise Dam - Catch A Catfish!' A few casts of the spinnerbait after dark had me realise how much dam weed there was, and only very small slurps on the surface. After removing the weed yet again in the wind, I realised in the dark I had removed the skirt, and gave up for the night!!





Dawn Tuesday was a little more promising at Mingo Crossing, but I skipped inflating my kayak. A wander as the sun was rising found some promising water at the edge of the park (shown in the photo), and something charging baitfish from underneath. A number of casts resulted in one good flash (silver perch?) near

the bank, but no strikes on the minnow and yabbie lures. Although it was a Sunwater Dam, it wasn't part of the [Queensland Stocked Impoundment Permits System \(SIPS\) program](#), so probably not as good fishing there as might have been at Monto or near Goomeri, but the hot shower was good before breakfast, paying my site fee, and hitting the road.

I saw at Ban Ban Springs a creek crossing 4 kilometres away, so figured it was worth a look and a cast, and to top up my coffee. Something large (~1m) was on the surface, not quite freshwater crocodile, not tortoise, but maybe saratoga. Fish behind the tree were also being chased by something deeper. A few casts of my yabbie lure failed to get a response, but I did get a surface investigation right by my feet, below the high bank. Sure enough, I was watching three lungfish rise, and enjoyed trying to catch them with my camera instead. Two were about 60cm long, their tail fins about 15-20cm high, who tended to rise as pairs, independent of the larger one, who



responding to the clink and rattle of me putting my rod back in the ute rose by the bank again and looked at me.

A traveller heading inland advised the creek had been barely flowing two weeks earlier, and only a metre or two wide, so perhaps these fish were triggered by all the rain. I can't remember seeing one before (perhaps as a kid with post-cyclone floods), but after the Canowindra Fish Museum on the way north, it was great to watch these prehistoric air breathing fish.

Further south, stopping at BCF Warwick to collect an item, I took the opportunity for a fishing report from the only tackle store in town - before I booked a campsite on a nearby river. Although there were three [SIPS](#) impoundments around Toowoomba and Warwick, paying the SIPS fee for an hour of quick fishing near the shore didn't inspire me. As there had been only one fish - a yellowbelly - reported to the store (and the rivers only starting to flow), with a number of hours fishing reported to get it, I decided my QLD fishing was over, and headed for the [DPI Fishing Access Website spots](#) south of the border where good water was more likely, having seen the Gwydir on my way north.

Many spots near Tenterfield were daylight access only, and the sun was going down, but I found a spot before the town that looked promising. I took my rod down next to the bridge - I still had my crawfish on. I cast upstream, two winds...and on!

Bugger, I was still on the rocks by the bridge, above a blackberry bush in shorts and sandals, and had a fish on that I got down to the reeds.

Eventually I got through the blackberries, down to the water, and landed a 15" yella - measured on the tackle tray from the Great Northern cooler.

Maybe I shouldn't have been so eager for two more casts before I climbed back up



from the water's edge... with my ankles and shins bleeding away (& a fish yet to clean). I wasn't too eager to go wading in deep reeds for the lure after it snagged closer to the bridge, let alone potential mozzies and leeches. For those interested, I think the lure was a Dr Fish Crawfish (or similar), the trebles appeared about size 2 and the internal ball bearing and clattering claws no doubt triggered the aggressive response at dusk. It's visible in the reed and the fish in the photo...and is still at the bridge!

I took some photos for the DPI Anglers Access Website feedback and I drove to my next fishing spot and overnight stay on the Clarence River, rising to a nice dawn on Wednesday.

Copmanhurst Freecamp was reasonably easy to find. Although flowing like a trout stream (I still wasn't sure if it was it was a brackish part of the Clarence River) my early morning shore casts resulted nothing but spooked baitfish and seeing lots of garfish and that it was fresh. With a big cliff opposite, with overhanging trees in back eddies, and the sun out, I took my kayak over and cast around, before trolling downstream with my favourite bass lures.

While this was happening, I noticed a Land Cruiser pull up, with a mulloway-style 7' spin rod, and they cast a bait out near the tents on the other bank, and had a chuckle. After untangling a snag, I looked back to see this teenager getting photos with a fish!! I kept paddling, having both not had a bite there at dawn and busy balancing water flow, snags, and casting the lures.





A short time later, I noticed a shark-like pectoral fin, and whiter underbody, and recognised the catfish that had taken the bait. Oh yes, I forgot to mention in QLD I did spot three lungfish in a flooded river, quite a sight (& not the saratoga I hoped I might have been casting to, nor crocodiles or eel-tailed catfish).

Talking to an arriving caravaner as I packed up, he noted that Copmanhurst Freecamp used to be very different before the recent floods. There were camps along the bank upstream, which was now the vertical sandstone cliffs visible in my photo. It was a shame someone had vandalised the toilet block (possibly previously damaged by the floods), and left trash in the grass, but hopefully it is better soon. The river was quite stable and the bank was better camping, and a toilet block nearby in Federation Park. The only store/pub also had a poster up with the local bass caught and next competition 7 Feb. So, while the section I fished was bare rocks and some trees (barely any weed), there must be some good spots around.

I gave up, packed up, and headed to the coast at Sawtell & enjoyed the yellowbelly with an old friend for dinner. Almost forgot to fish before I left Sawtell on Thursday, I had a few casts the next morning in the Boambee estuary, but like my arrival, the river was in full flood, and no hits on the lure. I'd definitely missed the low tide to collect yabbies, but it was good catching up with an old friend.

Yellowbelly, cod, and bass water fished, it was off to Ebor to chase trout! I had a few Angler Access spots, one before Ebor, but soon discovered the road I was taking was Waterfall Way, was blocked by a landslide earlier in the week. Finding a rough track detour (and no fish in Boggy Creek), I eventually got to Arties Bridge.

Alas it, and a few others (marked as unverified on the DPI



Angler Access map) were heavily overgrown, so I went to the Ebor Conservation Area. Brown water, wind, and middle afternoon result in no action, so I headed to the Tamworth Music Festival, but I noted much nicer water in Ebor itself and the Dutton Hatchery area, to the west of where I stopped, which I look forward to returning to (and the many freecamps).



The rest of my journey (Friday/Saturday) was more focussed offroad, and a detour to collect one teenager from Mascot Airport (waylaying my plan to fish Oberon and Wyangala Waters), so I stopped fishing (and the swim in the harbour

probably made me smell better after a couple of days on the road). Coolah (my turnoff Southwest after fishing Ebor & missing the rivers out of Armidale) had some good looking water for cod, where it had been raining on my way north a few weeks earlier in my trek up Fossickers Way.

In the end, the score of legal fish was NSW 1, QLD 0 (although QLD did get 6 undersized fish)

**Finding Where To Fish.** On a road trip, planning your 'rest breaks' and layovers can be helped with a bit of online research. My 2022 trip had seen some good water, but my return had the Gwydir River (my target water) in flood. Speaking of which, the BoM QLD floodwarning page had a good link to regularly updated water levels of the major rivers/dams/weirs, and Google Maps satellite view showed me the riverbed in Gayndah which crossed it off of my list for likely fish.

The NSW DPI Angler Access [website](#) (and [mobile version](#)) was quite useful (& much better than the limited information QLD has), but when opening up a potential spot, make sure the validation/discussion points are there in the lower part of the description of the location. A few spots I saw had been noted as Verified by NSW CFA, and the terrible spots I found had not been verified at all (an opportunity for me to submit some). I was surprised by the lack of locations in northern NSW (eg the many creeks on Clarence Way), so Copmanhurst Freecamp stood out in my early trip planning as a layover or rest stop.

Angler Access information. I didn't save any app or ArcGIS maps to my phone, so I was only accessing the Angler Access data with internet access, and screenshots was very valuable to get the address back - especially as the webpage resets every day or so, requiring agreement to the terms before the map loads again and you need to zoom back in from all of NSW, but map



history helped find some Angler Access spots. The spots appear to be stored under a 6-7 digit reference number.

Take me fishing! (Routing) However, once you select Angler Access/ArcGIS to route you to the location, Google Maps was used within the Angler Access website, but I think it needed copying (or searching) in Google Maps app separately to keep the route active. This was because the NSW DPI route (within the DPI webpage) is done through the web browser and drops out. This helped when I found poor access, and wanted to investigate nearby locations.

Perhaps you might make use of the Angler Access site for your next fishing/family trip

*(Editor, this has been uploaded to our 'Places' blog too <https://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/?p=5991&preview=true>)*

## From Greg S

Remember you don't have to have a Facebook account to look at those on Facebook.

### Greg S

I know this is from Tassie but still of interest I reckon

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1187958520165345&set=pcb.1187958563498674>

*(Editor: Greg thought these links I found were also useful. Maybe better resource for NSW flathead?)*

<https://www.sydneyfishmarket.com.au/Home/Seafood/Species-Information/List/category/flatheads>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/fishing-rules-and-regs/saltwater-bag-and-size-limits>

Estuary Perch and Bass the difference

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1128728681980107&set=a.239174684268849>

Not sure how real this is. The trout misses too

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1616206866402559>

## Stuff in my In Box

Subject: For Freshwater Fisher? Anglers becoming endangered species on some Canterbury rivers | RNZ News

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/582015/anglers-becoming-endangered-species-on-some-canterbury-rivers>

I referred last issue about DPI Fisheries and Uni of Canberra setting a live Trout Cod Web cam peering into the spawning boxes. When I tried to get the link that I'd lost, Luke Pearce of Fisheries Threatened Species Unit, responded to my query (and the caution that our readership included juniors): *"Ha ha, we don't have the actually spawning on film, we believe they are a bit shy and do it in the dark! The link is now taken down as they have finished spawning, they guys from the Uni Canberra got some awesome footage of the Trout Cod using the nest boxes and some on natural nests. We had one spawning in one of our nest boxes and harvested 40,000 larvae from it which are now in a fry pond at Narrandera and should be ready for harvest and*

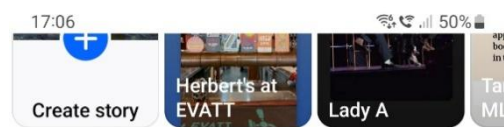
stocking out toward the end of January, so a great result. I have some saved video footage of fish using our nest boxes ”

<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1ByEiNFKMQ/>

For something saltwater, check out this weird wave

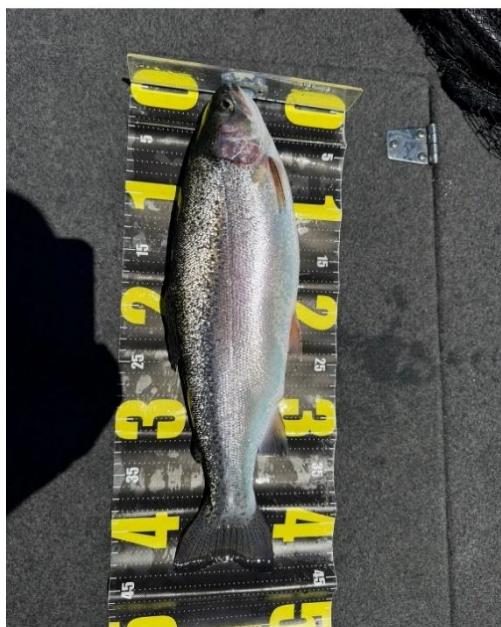
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1CN7CiKzcC/>

**Free to a good home** – DPI Fisheries has been running a ‘Fish for Life’ campaign and I scored myself some promotional Tassie Devils. The program is aimed at improving our ‘social licence’ with the public through initiatives such as cleaning up rubbish, encouraging more female participation and correct handling of fish.



**Canberra Fishing Network** · Willis Purvis · 13m ·

**Rainbow from googong today  
trolling tassies**



21 likes · 5 comments ·

Bill, discover new threads ·



Elsewhere in Facebook:



Spotted this stoinker up near the Cotter Dam wall this morning. I'm thinking Brown Trout and not the usual Rainbow. — with **Hannah Endres**.



Past President Geoff and I were planning to fish North Island. For various reasons I had to pull out but Geoff had some great days





### **Some hints for beginners in Canberra**

I wonder how many of you follow the Canberra Fishing Network Facebook page, but there was a recent post about beginner fishing in Canberra with a lot of useful responses in particular the substantial one from a subscriber named Ian Martin.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1NNyL4RZo6/>

*These are all the things that people rarely tell you, and that I had to figure out through obsession and dedication:*

*Look for life! Bugs, birds, frogs, tadpoles, any life indicates a food source. "Matching the hatch" comes from trout fishing. Meaning you match what the fish are feeding on.*

*Fish are lazy! All animals seek to expend the least amount of energy. Trout use slip streams to hold them in place at the edge of current and only duck out of their position to eat, but they often won't go far. All fish do this. When using woolly buggers or small soft plastics for carp, they are so lazy that you have to drag the lure across their nose - I found this out from a video where the narrator indicated a dinner plate sized target in front of the fish to aim for. Ocean fish like tailor, tuna, and barracuda are built for speed due to their environment. The rules for them are different, and faster retrieves are better. Fresh water fish are the opposite. Whether using spinner baits, lipless cranks, soft plastics, or bibbed lures for perch (golden perch or redfin) you need to cast deep into snags where they live. You often won't get a strike out of hunger, but from aggression at the invading lure - Same goes for Murray cod.*



Golden perch will hang on structure like submerged trees, docks, rock formations, sunken trash, overhanging willows, etc. Black mountain peninsula is a great example of this on both sides. Redfin, on the other hand, are a schooling species. They move constantly in search of food. If you hook one, keep casting in the same spot, and you'll likely catch more until they move on or you catch the entire school. Redfin are aggressive fish, and they're probably the easiest to target with golden perch and carp serving as bycatch. I mostly use an American lure called Crappie Thunder for Redfin - they can't resist them - but small grub plastics work as well. Blades, Mason spinners, and small oargees also work. If you're hunting Redfin, you need to cover ground. Fan cast in a spot, then move and repeat.

Fish have no eyelids! Direct sunlight impairs their vision, and they can't squint! You should cast into the sun and retrieve away from it. Freshwater fish are also more active between dusk and dawn. This is when they hunt and don't have to hide as much from predators - another reason they lurk in cover and around structure. Midday is the worst time to fish, but it doesn't mean you won't catch anything.

Lure colour matters! Silhouette is important! Different colours disappear at different depths. If you're fishing deeper water, use purples, deep blues and blacks, as they cast a stronger Silhouette for fish to see. Brighter colours can be more visible in murky shallow waters.

Hook size is important for each species! For carp, you want a small hook that fits max 3 corn kernels on the shank, and leaves the point exposed. Although, it's best to use a hair rig for carp, as the hookup rate is better, given they chew on their food and spit it out to sift debris. Also use expensive brand named hooks, like gamagatsu or owner. With the small size, you need them to withstand the pull of bigger carp. For any species, a smaller hook is better so it's inconspicuous, but some fish have larger mouths and differing feeding habits that permit larger hooks.

Braided line is fairly essential! While mono is usable as main line, line stretch over time means you need to respool more often, and you have less casting distance. Braid is a pain in the ass requiring backing, the braid, and a leader, but it will change the fishing experience when you can fish way smaller diameter line. The lads at Boss outdoor should be able to help with setup. You want some stopping power, but not too much. There is a balance you must find between line strength and the target species. I use 6lb braid on trout/Redfin rods, 12lb on my Perch rods, 25lb on my carp rods, and 60lb on my cod rods. Thin line casts small lures better and is less likely to spook small fish. The odd setup is my carp rods. Although 30lb main line, I use 12lb vanish flourocarbon leader. Why? Because carp don't care about the main line, I often only cast 5 ft from the bank, and you could hook anything from a 1lb carp to 20lb carp.

If you're cod fishing, upgrade the hooks on your lures to owner! When you finally hook a cod and it bends even the expensive hooks, you'll understand why.

Hooking up is great, but you need to land the fish! Good lip grips are essential, as well as knowing how to use drag. Drag is the finesse in the sport. You want it set different based on species. Trout and Redfin, I set it super light - about 50% breaking strain of the leader (the weakest part of the rig). You should never go beyond 75% breaking strain, but this takes practice to know how to adjust it when fighting a fish. Practice makes perfect, and watching pros helps to get an idea.

If a lure isn't working, try something new! Sometimes, the fish just don't want what you're throwing. Have a small range of lures/baits on hand that cover the target species. For carp, any

corn kernels will do, but Edgell sweet corn drives them mad for some reason. You also may be casting way too far out. I use two rods when carp fishing, and one usually has powerbait and the other corn. Before I cast, I open a tin and throw a few fist fulls of corn into the water where I'm fishing. I then cast into that zone and experiment with distance. I don't know if you've ever thrown a fist full of corn, but it doesn't go very far. I also pour the corn juice into the water. You can use bread, dough, boilies, and other bait for carp as well, but I find it attracts the birds. Jelly crystals, aniseed, dog food, and eggs also work as Burley, but it's all too complicated when corn does the trick.

I mentioned structure before, but you should seek it out! Drop offs, hanging trees, sunken anything. You can also look at the bank as an indication of what lies beneath the surface.

For lures, retrieve matters! Again, fish are lazy! It's often said that you should retrieve as slow as you can, then go a little slower. I've caught golden perch around the Ginninderra bridge on smaller oargee lures, and if you seen how I was using them, you would've thought I had no idea what I was doing. I was often letting the sit floating on top of the water for 10-15 secs at a time before slowly cranking them to touch the bottom and float back up again. But golden perch will wait underneath the lure right until it's at the bank before they strike. If you're wearing polarized sunglasses, you can experience the fright if seeing their face appear through the murk behind the lure. But if you don't hide, they'll just swim away without striking. Polarized sunnies are a must! This goes double for Redfin. Especially using soft plastics. Low and slow with pauses along the bottom around Yarralumla Bay at dusk or dawn is great fun. The moored yachts hold a lot of fish as well, but you need a kayak or boat, and it's rude to cast at them.

I'd recommend your son focus on soft plastics for Redfin and corn for carp. Buy him a decent rod (2-4kg), a decent reel (set the drag tight and loose and twist it to test for smoothness and a metallic clink - cheap reels suck), buy premium hooks, and zman or bait junkie plastics - you want a variety of colours and tail types, dark, bright and natural colours, paddle and curly tail, swim bait and grub sized, with light, medium m, and heavy jig heads. Don't worry about other lures until he masters them - it will save you money! And, once he masters Redfin, he can apply the same principles to cod and Perch. The same setup can be used for carp, but there's a reason I have 20 different rods. You only need two for now.

(Editor, this has been uploaded to our 'Tips' blog <https://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/?p=5993&preview=true>)

## 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.

### [NSW Regional Fishing Regulations](#)

Finding regional regulations, like trout stream classification, can be a bit tricky.



## Gaden Report

The latest from Gaden Hatchery – especially the mixed results from the spawning run.

## Chair Left Behind at Christmas BBQ

Has this been claimed yet?

## Updated Constitution

Has been uploaded onto our website

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



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

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

## MAS Presentation on Galaxias and the Consequences in Regards Stocking

Includes map of the stocking bans.

## MAS Video About Changes to Trout Stocking on the Monaro

Much discussion in the comments.

# 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.

***The council has approved a new constitution changing the entire membership model including the idea of individual (voting) membership – more will be advised soon.***

### **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**

Vic Fisheries used to have a neat little newsletter called 'Nibbles' as well as their presence on all forms of social media. I have discovered they have a periodic "Recreational Fisheries Management Update" at

<https://vfa.vic.gov.au/recreational-fishing/fisheries-management/recreational-fisheries-management-updates>

These seem to be quarterly or so – no new one since December edition.

## **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*.

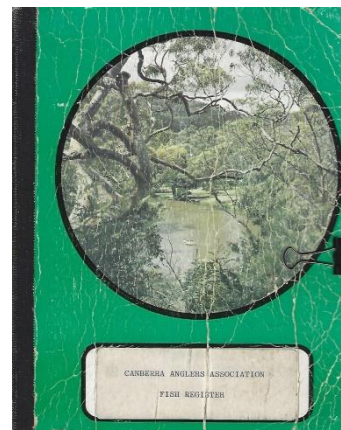
<b>Dates</b>	<b>Event Details</b>
various	The NSW DPI Kids' and Women's Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne were in a hiatus during the construction but are supposedly now back – though none currently scheduled. There are saltwater and freshwater events across the state.  <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids</a>
Watch for next year	Applications for Buckenderra's 2025 Trout Challenge has come and gone in a flash.  <a href="https://www.facebook.com/share/1BTTF5mAug/">https://www.facebook.com/share/1BTTF5mAug/</a>  If you are interested you'll need to closely monitor <a href="https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage">https://www.facebook.com/buckenderraholidayvillage</a> during October 2026



# 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
Paul	Rainbow hen	51cm	Fly	Club trip to Black Lake 16 Aug 2025
Paul	Rainbow jack	51cm	Fly	Club trip to Black Lake 16 Aug 2025
Jayden	YellowBelly	42, 46 and 52cm best is 61 on <a href="#">our calculator</a>	Fly?	31 Aug 2025
Paul	Murray Cod	59cm scores 7.5	Lure	Bidgee 31 Aug 2025
Ryan	Brown	5 with best at 4 1/4lb	Fly	Lower Monaro – Opening weekend
Paul	Brown	similar	Fly	Lower Monaro – Opening weekend
Peter	Rainbow	30cm	Fly	Lower Monaro – Opening weekend
Lachy	Rainbows and browns	best of 35 and 32cm respectively	Fly	Goodradigbee 15-16 Oct

Claude	Brown	My largest was 2.75lb and still shorter than Paul's so didn't measure. Was concerned about fish wellbeing. I have to work out a good way of measuring without laying out on grass or while it's still lively in the net.	Fly	Mayfly Madness 17-19 Oct
Paul	Brown	57cm	Fly	Mayfly Madness 17-19 Oct
Lachy	Rainbow and Brown	32cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 25 Oct
Ryan	Rainbow	32cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 25 Oct
Claude	Rainbow	32cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 25 Oct
Neil	Rainbow	36cm	Fly	Lyle Knowles 25 Oct
Tom	Flathead	56cm	?	Coast Trip 21 Nov
Paul	Murray Cod	67cm	?	?
Aru	Carp	Estimated from photo scaled against lipgrip 55 cm	Bait	Lake Burley Griffin 10 Dec
Aru	Carp	59 cm	Bait	Lake Burley Griffin 18 Jan 2026 – Club Carp Event



## Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at

<https://www.canberra-anglers.asn.au/>

*Burley Line* contributions to:

[webmaster@canberra-anglers.asn.au](mailto:webmaster@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). 2025/2026 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 'contact our team' link on the web home page). 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)