

THE BURLEY LINE



Stefan on the Tumut



From the Editor's Desk

There may not be a May edition, so "Coming Events" are a little more extensive than usual.

We've got our usual entertaining mix here. Paul describes a recent back country trip – topical given that Trev gave a monthly meeting looking at the most appropriate gear to take. Some images from our fly tiers along with some late submissions of photos from our Jan/Feb trip to Jindabyne. Stefan has written on our forthcoming May trip, plus some observations about the NSW Council of Freshwater Anglers Interclub Meet.

Coming Events

Meeting: 14th Apr 2024.

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston. To be confirmed but maybe a 'movie night' – https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSkv_sEyPSc – the full movie, not just the trailer. More details via email.

Fly – Tying 24th Apr 2024.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details in due course via email. Fly Tying – Parasol Emerger led by Ryan.

Meeting: 8th May 2024.

As usual 7:30 at Raiders Weston – and maybe via Zoom. Local fly fishing luminary Danny Spelic will be speaking. More details via email.

Fly – Tying 22nd May 2024.

As usual 7:30 via Zoom – more details in due course via email. Fly Tying – Viva Magoo – leader to be advised. Note that the date was incorrect on the Web – now fixed.

Next Events

5th-7th Apr – NSWCF A Interclub Meet (and big raffle). Stefan is unavailable to lead this, but at minimum get onto the raffle. More details here. <https://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NSWCFAINTERCLUBFinalFlyerv2.pdf> or

Register: <https://www.sydneyflyrodders.com.au/event-5637081>

Book accommodation: <https://www.sydneyflyrodders.com.au/event-5637115>

Buy raffle tickets: <https://www.sydneyflyrodders.com.au/Raffle-tickets>

12th-14th Apr – Brindabella with Ryan – more details via email.

17th-19th Apr – Tumut with Stefan – more details via email and the missive from him next. The covershot gives you an idea of the river near where we'd be staying.

Rambling on events to come.

Stefan

As the leaves start to turn into their usual orange, the time has come to plan the club's trip to Tumut. Always a favourite with the stalwarts, maybe some new members should consider joining the fray.

Always a popular weekend outing, the area abounds in fishing and other opportunities. Tumut lies downstream of the huge Blowering Dam reservoir. The water is the last holding spot ex the Snowy scheme and then destined for use in central NSW for irrigation of parched farmland. This means that water flow is predetermined by needs, and results in the streamflow being quite variable. However, most years, in May/June the flow is at a minimum which means that the river reverts to what becomes a chain of legendary and eminently fishable pools. Access then is more amenable to fishers and makes this time very popular. Moving within the stream bed makes large sections of the river wadeable.

Should water levels be high though, there is no need to be dejected. Those with switch rod skills can ply their trade right within the town precincts as access is excellent, especially in the vicinity of the racecourse. Additionally, there are numerous options on feeder streams nearby. These are not affected with waterflow levels in the Tumut, and can produce excellent fish. The Hume and Hovel walking track skirts the Goobarragandra River for some distance and may afford good access points to fishable ponds. Another option is to fish the dam edge of course.

Travel options to Tumut are varied, primarily dependant on time constraints. It is quite possible to make a huge weekend of it by travelling via the Brindabella Mountains, fishing the Goodradigbee River on the way, and then heading home along all the options of the Snowy Mountains Way, Eucumbene River, Tantangara and upper Murrumbidgee spots. Those on limited time are possibly advised to come to Tumut via Gundagai though.

The weekend usually has a pleasant social feel about it, this year we are planning to return to Blowering Caravan Park (now called Tumut Valley Holiday Park

<https://www.tumutvalleyholidaypark.com.au/>). It is some way out of town but close to the river with excellent access, so no driving is needed to go fishing. It is intended to have an evening "meet and greet" around the firepit on the Friday and a group dinner at locale in town on Saturday evening. Cabin accommodation is basic but adequate in recently refurbished units. The temperature can be chilly so be prepared.



Dates are 17th-19th May and, for those who want to search the Newsletter archives, there are reports from previous times to be perused – generally the June editions.

Here are two examples:

<https://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/june-2019-burley-line-newsletter-issue-144/>

<https://canberra-anglers.asn.au/blog/june-2021-burley-line-newsletter-issue-168/>

Meeting Presentation 13 Mar – Back Country Fishing Gear.

With a last moment unavailability of the scheduled speaker, we were grateful that Trev offered to give a spiel on his favourite activity – back country trout fishing. Make sure you check out [his YouTube channel](#).

He's been good enough to provide the kit list that he walked us through, and even offered to honcho a group purchase of his lightweight rod holder if there is sufficient interest.

Gear List:

Navigation App: Gaia GPS - free version

- **Pers Locator Beacon:** ACR ResQLink 400
- **Sleeping Mat:** Big Agnes Rapide SL Insulated Sleeping Pad - 25x78 Wide Long - make sure you get the wide and long version.
- **Light Weight Tent:** Lanshan 1 (the "Lanshan 1" has the double wall, the "Landshan 1 Pro" has the single wall - I recommend a double wall if camping near the river due to condensation management). You could also go the Lanshan 2 for extra room - 2 person. You will need trekking poles for the tent (one for the Lanshan 1, or two for Lanshan 2)
- **Ultralight Hiking Pack:** Hyperlite Mountain Gear (I have the "Headwall 55" version, they are all pretty similar, the Headwall version has a pocket for avalanche gear)
- **Sleeping Bag/Quilt:** Seas to Summit Cinder Down Quilt
- **Pillow:** Thermarest Compressible Pillow Cinch - Medium
- **Cooking Stove:** MSR Pocket Rocket 2
- **Cooking Pot/Cup:** Toaks 550ml Titanium Cup
- **Air Mattress Pump:** Flextailgear portable air pump
- **Water Bottle/Filter:** Lifestraw Peak Series Collapsible Squeeze
- **USB Powerbank:** Anker Power Core slim 10000 (there might be something newer - Anker is a good brand)

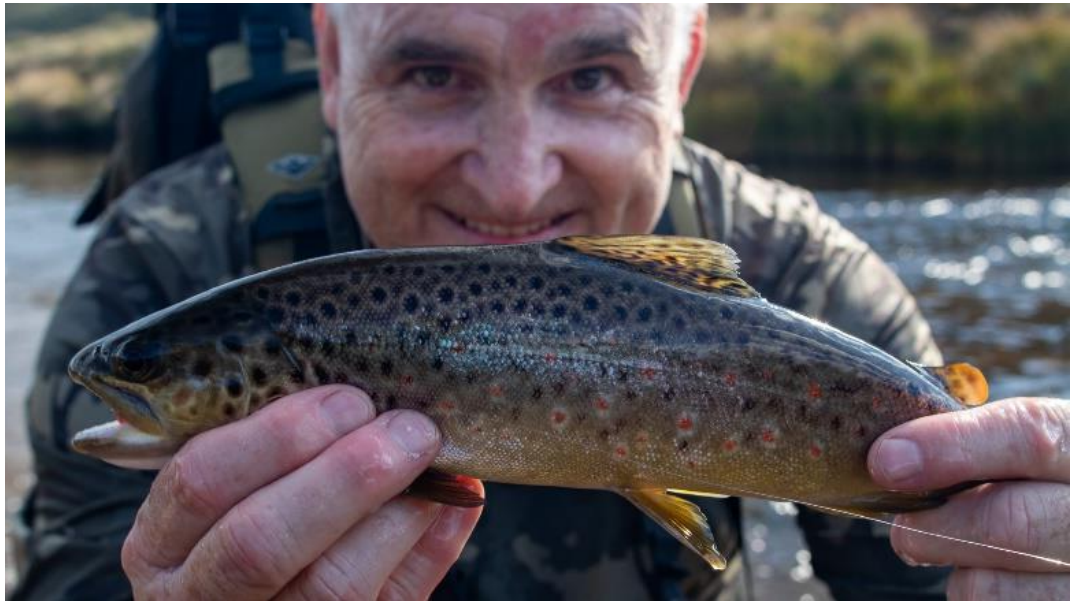
- **Rain Jacket:** Orvis Men's Ultralight Wading Jacket
- **Boots:** Orvis Ultralight Wading Boot
- **Shirt:** Mountain Design Mens Vapour Hooded Pullover
- **Hat:** Sunsafe Adapt-a-cap
- **Underwear:** Icebreaker Merino Boxer

- **Fishing Chest Pack:** Patagonia Stealth Work Station
- **Fly Box:** Fulling Mill Tactical Box

A few days in the KNP high country.

Paul

I recently had the opportunity to spend three days camping, fishing and exploring one of the KNP hidden gems. I drove up from Canberra and biked and walked my way into the headwaters of this particular stream.



I was excited to be greeted by an empty valley with beautiful weather and miles and miles of river to explore. I quickly set up camp and rigged up. It was a wide-open treeless valley covered with tussock and sedge. The river was crystal clear with plenty of undercuts for refuge. It looked perfect.



The afternoon started off too well. First cast to some slow water at the side of the main flow and as soon as the grasshopper fly spat on the surface, a bow wave appeared from 15 feet above the fly and dutifully tracked down the fly and sucked it in. A slow lift and I had my first fish on. A plump, exquisitely marked brown of about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a pound slid into the net. This is going to be a trout massacre I thought. How wrong was I.

The next little run was only 30 meters above this spot and it had just the right combination of depth, cover and flow. Second or third cast and the same hopper disappeared in a tiny dimple and I was on again. A considerably larger fish of about 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ pounds cartwheeled out of the water. Seconds later the fish dived behind a rock he was gone.

The tippet broke all too easily. I have a strong suspicion that the tippet was damaged from a result of my impatient tug of war with some sword grass only moments earlier. A costly oversight.

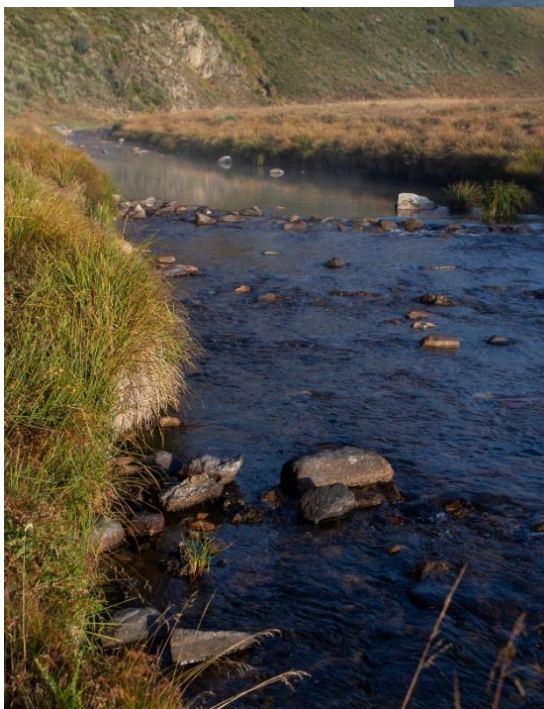


The fishing from that moment on got much harder. I saw many fish, mostly scooting upstream from the back third of the pool telling all his mates that an intruder was sneaking up the bank-side tussocks. The banks were completely exposed with no cover and any attempt at wading produced a similar result. I did manage to snare a couple more fish by concentrating on the faster water between the pools. I made my way back to camp feeling buoyed by the number and quality of fish that I had encountered, giving me hope about my adventure for the following day.

I settled into camp and enjoyed the two beers that I had earlier buried in the stones of a little side tributary. Fire lit, and the bush TV was set up for the night.

I woke early the next morning. There was heavy dew and it had been a cold night. Coffee and muesli quickly consumed. I headed off downstream with the intention of giving myself a full day fishing back to the tent. I kept away from the river as much as possible, only crossing when I had to. The water was

noticeably colder than yesterday. I good sign of maybe improved fishing?



The fishing was better than the previous day, but still really challenging. I spooked several fish including one that was in the 4 pound size bracket. Bugga! It wasn't until about 10 am that I started get a few fish. Mostly on dry flies. Despite the presence of many grasshoppers bankside, the fish were not really interested in any of my artificial patterns. I switched to a small caddis pattern and started to get a few fish. All the bigger fish were keeping well away from me.

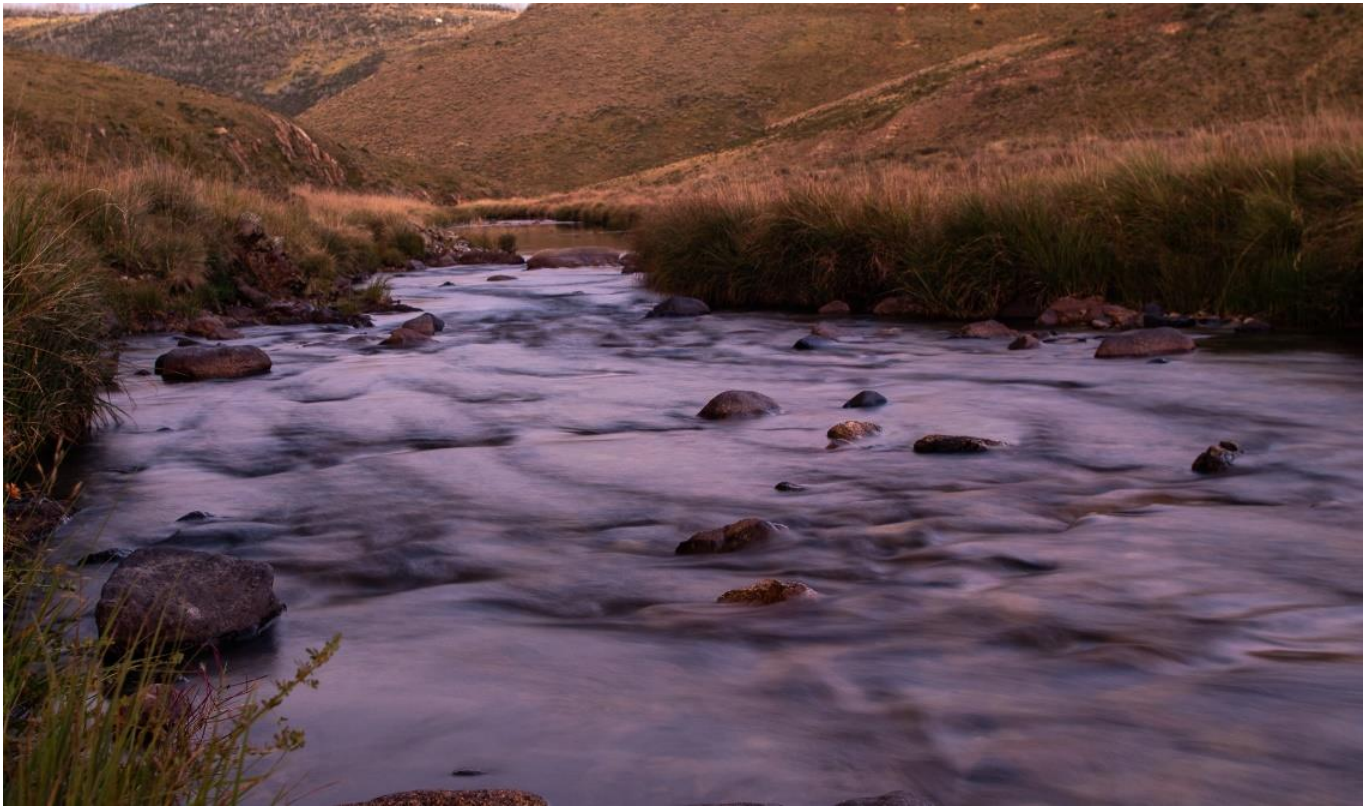


The highlight was when I spotted a nice fish sitting midwater in a thigh deep run close to the bank. I was moving around a lot and it looked like it would take a dry fly. I put my grasshopper fly back on and presented it to the fish. A good cast got the interest from the fish straight away and it followed the fly downstream hanging vertically below the drifting fly for several seconds before casually sipping in the fly in a super stealthy fashion. I lifted the rod and hooked the fish and it

instantly took to the air. Before too long it was in the net. A perfect specimen of about 3 pounds.

I had several other chances on some really great fish from then on but for a number of reasons I was not able to convert. I managed to score a couple of good rainbow trout in my quest to snare one of the larger browns. By about 3pm the day had warmed and the fish went back into their hiding holes. I headed back to camp to recover and rest up.





The last morning was a copy of the previous day. Foggy, cold with a heavy dew.



This time I headed upstream to the river above where I had fished on the first day. I was only a short day and I had to stop fishing by about 12 midday. It was a really challenging morning. Numerous close calls and near misses. Did get a couple. They were highly welcome. All the bigger specimens were untouched. Still an enthralling session. Not surprisingly, my turn back time of 12 midday blew out till about 1:30. Nothing unusual for me.

I returned to camp with a renewed commitment to return to this place and fish the miles of water that I left untouched. What a special place, mind you, the walk out was particularly tough. When I reached my bike, I had to push the bike for most of the way back. My legs were without any energy to ride any uphill. The last 300m was a gentle descent and I mounted to bike and really enjoyed those last few meters rattling down the rocky track back to the car park.



What a great trip.

Paul

Late Submissions from our Jindabyne Trip

From BJ:



Was trying to send you image from video of Snowy River (near Dalgety) capture. Probably too late for newsletter now. Had to screenshot my phone. Importantly, it was one of 2 hooked on the club tie night

parachute black spinner. Effective as soon as I tied it on. But the only one in the net. Just over 2lb. I'm sure the one that busted off was much bigger 😞. He bucked and shook in a few seconds of lifting weight in shallow water. Clean snap - may have been damaged tippet too.

I got some photos of Ryan on the Moonbah from Geoff:





Fly Tying 28 Feb

Claude led the team via Zoom tying the Commonwealth Hopper – more information [here](#) on our Fly Tying Blog.

Some of the results. They look the real goods, well done guys:



Claude



BJ

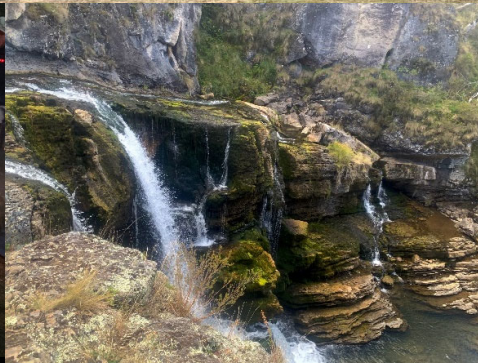
Tantangara Report 22-24 March 2024

Claude

Jayden, Geoff, Ryan, Rod, Claude and BJ recently enjoyed a weekend away at Tantangara. Unlike previous years the weather was great for camping but not ideal for fishing.....blue skies. The rivers were clear but low. Tantangara was the highest a number of us had seen in years, with the Port Phillip Fire Trail (our normal access to the Murrumbidgee River) cut off by water. The only access was by heading further up the Snowy Mountains Highway. Interestingly both the Murrumbidgee and Tantangara was full of green suspended algae, hence the fishing wasn't great.



Rod's Firepit



Ryan's Saturday Adventure



Nungar Creek Entrance upper Tantangara

Ryan and Jayden hit some of the surrounding streams but found the going tough. Geoff tried some local water, but also had a hard time of it. We all concluded that the weather was great but the water was too low and the fish were hiding in 'other places'.

BJ and I fished the very low Nungar with BJ catching a small brown. Very few fish were even sighted in the Nungar. After lunch we met up with Rod who brought down his boat. He had some success in the morning with one fish netted. He graciously 'shipped' us up to the Murrumbidgee and Nungar entries to Tantangara. Rod and I fished the Murrumbidgee from the boat, whilst BJ fished the Nungar from the shore. Rod and I didn't even get a sniff of a fish, but BJ got a significant hit that broke his line.....we all joked that it must have been a huge fish to break his 10 lb leader!

We all caught up at the campsite in the late afternoon, started a fire and chatted about the days adventures. Everyone was very jealous of Geoff's very impressive trailer camping setup (seen in top picture) with pull-out kitchen, hot water and comfortable sleeping setup. Ryan kept us all very entertained with funny stories, which was a great way to end the day. Rod even constructed his new elevated fire pit and we were warmed by fire at multiple levels.



A good Sunday breakfast around the campfire remnants before packing up our camps to try different areas on the way home. Ryan had home priorities before the work week and BJ and I tried the Murrumbidgee / Bobeyan Rd intersection. Unfortunately the wind picked up just as we started and continued for the rest of the afternoon. Geoff decided the 4wt wasn't going to hack the wind – so hit the road. The river was very clear and at a fishable but low level and a number of fish were spooked. I had two short tangles with fish on a classic bubble line, otherwise it was a very quiet afternoon.



Rod considered boating on Lake Eucumbene, but wisely decided not to try after seeing whitecaps as he approached the lake. Jayden tried the Denison plain – but also found very shy fish. Perhaps we needed to be dawn raiders instead of camp food gorgers to catch the sleepy ones?

Importantly, everyone arrived home safely to dry our tents and prepare our gear for the next trip. Hopefully we will have more water and good weather next year.

Fly Tying 27 Mar

Claude led the team via Zoom this time tying a Pheasant Tail Dry
<https://globalflyfisher.com/video/dry-pheasant-tail>

Lachy said "keen to try them on my fry dropper Euro tightline rig" – is that a Euronymph joke?
Some of the results. Very yummy:



Claude



Lachy

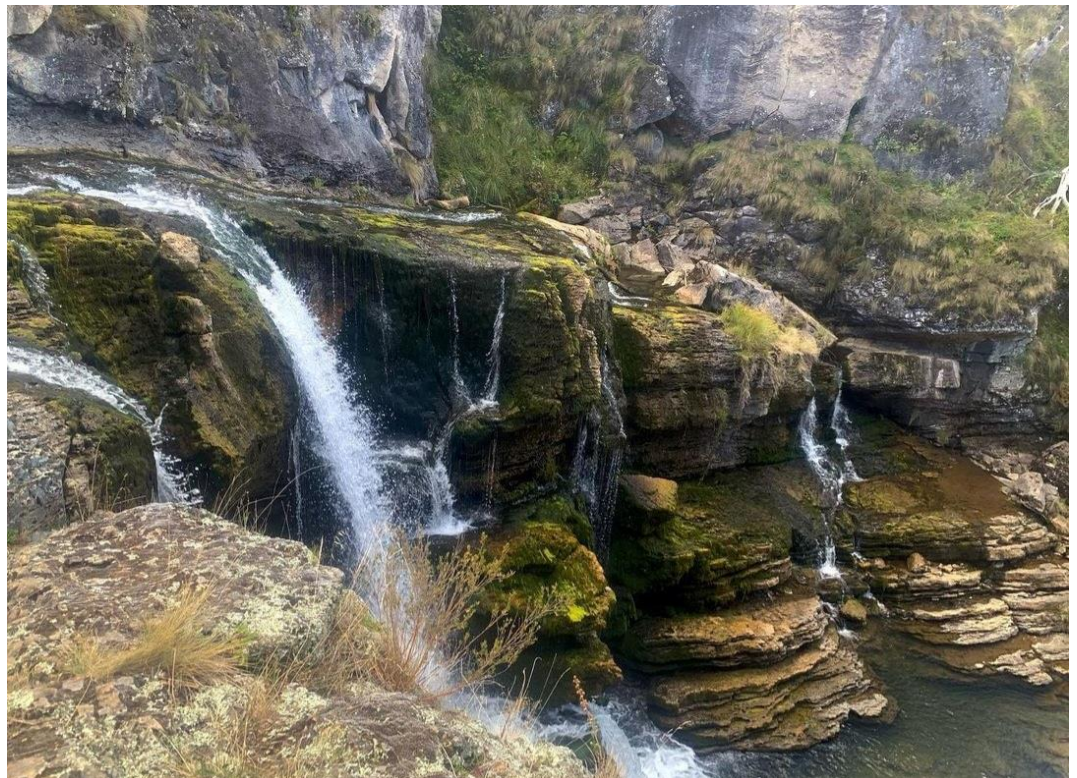


Jayden



Tantangara Trip 22-24 Mar

Hmm, while I'm sure there was a lot of club conviviality at the trip, I fear that, given some images I saw on Instagram, there was possibly more 'angling' than 'fishing' this trip. Following photos from Ryan of the area around upper Murrumbidgee and the gorge near Blue Waterholes.





In my In-Box



Ian has sent in a photo of the latest modification to the Nissan Eggs-Trail for fly fishers.

Seems Ian and Lyall (in NZ) were having a pretty hard time – at least on the day they went out with our regular guide Barry Perkins of [Fly Fish Mataura](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/EnNkjy6ETsj3NWiQ/?mibextid=Nif5oz>

While Stefan can't lead the scheduled trip to the NSW CFA Interclub Meet, he provided me with some photos from the area where it is being held along with some notes:

Should anyone be looking for more fishing opportunity post Easter, the Council of Freshwater Anglers Interclub meet will be held over the subsequent weekend at Wallerawang, hosted by the Sydney Fly Rodders Club. Wallerawang, near Lithgow is about two and a half hours drive from Canberra, past Goulburn and onto Oberon via the Abercrombie River bridge.



Wallerawang has a rich history. Being one of the first rural settlements west of the Blue Mountains, it led the expansion of sheep and cattle into the centre of the colonial continent. The discovery of coal seams led to the region becoming a minor industrial and power generation hub. A need for water supply created a demand for storage dams and these have become valuable recreation and fishing hotspots.

The original watercourses of the Fish/Duckmaloi Rivers and Coxs River are considered as good trout streams. Interestingly they end up in the Southern and Pacific Oceans respectively. Dams

on the rivers of Oberon, Wallace, Lyell and maybe further afield the Chifley Dam near Bathurst. Many access points exist on this water system. One to consider is the Marrangaroo campground reserve. Also under the rules consideration could be given to fishing Pejar Dam near Goulburn on the journey up, as good trout are of legend there!



A very productive watersystem exists at Thompsons Creek Dam. Supported by regular stocking this water has all the hallmarks of fishing a small bay on the Eucumbene, so it is well worth the effort of the small walk invested in getting there from the carpark.

Consider going, there is opportunity to meet a diverse group of people who harbour knowledge to base future trips around.

Kingfisher learning the benefits of burley:

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3aZv1luNEO/?igsh=dTJ0dWEzODQ4Nzd2>

Someone who shall remain unnamed sent me this photo of a familiar face, with a nice brownie from a local stream.



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 a 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.

[CAA Subscriptions](#)

Since we are halfway through our subscription year new members joining between now and the August 2024 AGM need only pay half rate of subscription.

[MAS and NSWCFE Correspondence With Federal Environment Minister](#)

Letters in response to a federal decision to declare the Roundsnouted Galaxia as an endangered species impacting on trout stocking in the Snowy-Monaro.

[Novice First Fly Casting Tutorial](#)

From Simon Gawesworth.

[NSWCFE Interclub Meet](#)

The flyer.

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 placemarker.

[Adaminaby Trout](#)

More details.

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– only the equivalent of \$0.50 per week.

[March 2024 Newsletter](#) has arrived:

Top items are:

- NSW CFA INTERCLUB MEET 5-7 APRIL 2024
- Import tariff on fishing reels to be cut
- Plibersek puts NSW on notice over feral horse numbers
- Recreational fishers blind-sided by NSW Fisheries stocking ban – Steve Samuels resignation letter
- The Big Trout to be repainted
- Yabby Trap Round-Up: swap your old opera house yabby traps for an Oar-Gee Plow lure
- Recreational fishing body for NSW

Recreational Fishing Alliance of NSW

Remember you can subscribe yourself, there is a link in every monthly newsletter. Recent, previous RFA newsletters can be accessed via their [archive](#). They also have a presence on [Facebook](#).

Fisheries Victoria News – ‘Nibbles’

These are in hiatus for the moment while they identify a new distribution system. Meanwhile they have a presence on all forms of [social media](#).

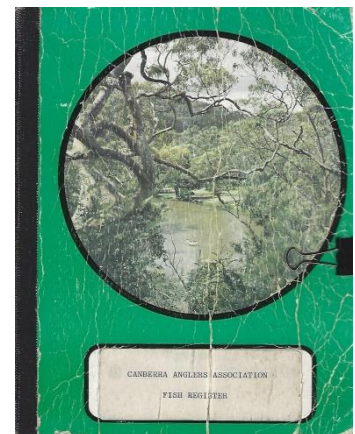
Long Term Program of Events Not Formally Part of CAA Events

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

Dates	Event Details
various	The NSW DPI Kids’ Fishing Workshops at Gaden Hatchery Jindabyne are in hiatus while the refurbishment program is in train. However there are also saltwater and freshwater events across the state. https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fishing/recreational/resources/fishing-workshops/kids
Friday 22nd Nov 2024 - Sunday 24th November 2024	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
Peter	Brown trout	61cm (over 6lb! his heaviest Australian trout)	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 28 Jul 2023
Peter	Brown trout	48cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 28 Jul 2023
Bill	Rainbow trout	37cm	Dry Fly	Bondi Forest Lodge trip, 4 Aug 2023
Bill	Brown trout	44cm	Fly	Lake Eucumbene, 13 Aug 2023
Bill	Brown trout	57cm	Fly	An unnamed river on the Monaro, 1 Oct 2023
Peter	Golden Perch	38cm Scores 23% on our Native Fish Assessment	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong, 8 Oct 2023
Jayden	Rainbow	33cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Ryan	Rainbow	33cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Jayden	Rainbow	33cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Lachy	Brown trout	31cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct
Bill	Rainbow trout	29cm	Fly	Cotter River – Lyle Knowles 29 Oct

Peter	Redfin Perch	40cm	Fly	Lake Tuggeranong, 31 Oct 2023
Bill	Rainbow trout	31 cm	Fly	Queanbeyan River 10 Nov
Rod	Mulloway	62.5cm	Lure	Tuross Lake – Coast Event – 18 Nov
Bill	Flathead	A number at 43cm	Lure	Tuross Lake – Coast Event – 18 Nov
Peter	Carp	Ten up to 63cm	Bait	LBG – CAA Carp event 14 Jan

Contact Us

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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

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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). 2023/2024 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.

For the rest of the year (ie until our AGM) new members are half the usual rate. More information on our website or email.

Contribute to *The Burley Line*

Contributions are always encouraged to *The*

**BOSS
OUTDOOR**



Capital Fly Casting

www.capitalflycasting.com

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 welcome 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.