

# NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 02

September 2010

Winner of the August 2010 Photo Competition

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

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



**Tom with Hairtail**

**Photo from Jamie Stanfield**

## *About the Club*

The Canberra Fisherman's Club Inc. is a sport fishing club that endeavours to promote a social awareness among its members, single or family. General meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month at the **Eastlakes Football Club No 3 Oxley St Griffith ACT** beginning at 7:30pm. All members and visitors are most welcome.

Members of the Canberra Fisherman's Club are eligible to set Club Records and, upon payment of an Australian National Sport fishing Association (ANSA) affiliation fee, also able to set Australian records, and World records (through ANSA affiliation with the International Game Fishing Association (IGFA)).

## *Aims of the Club*

- To promote sport fishing
- To foster the art of angling
- To teach the art of angling to new members and particularly juniors
- To promote the study and conservation of fish species and the environment
- To co-operate with and support other bodies with similar aims and ideals.

The Club also supports the Recfish Australia National Code of Practice for Recreational and Sport Fishing, which endorses:

1. Quickly and correctly returning unwanted or illegal catch to the water
2. Quickly killing fish that are kept for consumption
3. Using only appropriate, legal tackle, attending gear and valuing the catch
4. Taking no more than our immediate needs
5. Supporting and encouraging activities that preserve, restore and enhance fisheries and fish habitat
6. Understanding and observing all fishing regulations and reporting illegal fishing activities
7. Preventing pollution and protecting wildlife by removing rubbish
8. Taking care when boating and anchoring to avoid damage to wildlife and habitat
9. Using established roads and tracks
10. Reporting environmental damage
11. Avoiding unnecessary interactions with wildlife species and their habitats
12. Practising courtesy towards all those who use inland and coastal waters
13. Obtaining permission from landholders and traditional owners before entering their land
14. Caring for our own safety and the safety of others when fishing.

### Membership Fees

	CFC	ANSA
Junior	\$5	\$4
Student	-	\$7
Senior	\$20	\$19
Family	\$30	\$24

All Correspondence to the  
CFC Secretary  
PO Box 325  
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Articles for inclusion in the  
CFC Newsletter to be  
Forwarded to the Editor  
[luttpa@tpg.com.au](mailto:luttpa@tpg.com.au)

### CFC Life Members

Mike Penkethman  
Alan Matthews  
Brian Ray  
Laurie Nolen  
Jamie Stanfield  
Chris De La Rue



## *CFC Office Bearers 2010-2011*

PRESIDENT	Greg Davis	0427 932 504 (m)
VICE PRESIDENT	Jamie Stanfield	Life Member
SECRETARY	Chris Head	0408 225 794 (m)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	Patrick Luttrell	0414 866 799 (m)
TREASURER	Anthony Heiser	
RECORDER/TAGGING OFFICER	Steve Borkowskis	0402 223 410 (m)
EDITOR	Patrick Luttrell	0414 866 799 (m)
OUTING LIAISON OFFICER	Keith Smith	0418 864 760 (m)
Committee	Glen Malam	
Committee	Bruce Murray	
Committee	Chris Lemmon	



[ANSA National Web Site](http://www.ansa.com.au)

[www.ansa.com.au](http://www.ansa.com.au)

[ANSA NSW Web Site](http://www.ansansw.com.au)

[www.ansansw.com.au](http://www.ansansw.com.au)



## *2010-2011 Canberra Fisherman's Club Outing & Meeting Calendar*

<b>Outing Date</b>	<b>Outing</b>	<b>Monthly Meeting's</b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>Talbingo Outing</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Burrinjuck Convention 3 days of Fun</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> December 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Burrinjuck Club Outing Christmas Party</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>

## *President's Report*

Hi all,

Spring is finally here, and isn't it fantastic. Mother Nature has served up some great weather so far, but I'm sure there is still a bit of wind left yet before the weather settles into enjoyable spring days. This sort of weather entices you outdoors, well it does to me, and I love it. I haven't had the opportunity to chase any local Yellas yet, but I suspect with all the good rain we've had, and now with the water starting to lose that winter chill, they'll be getting active in the local lakes. Hmmmm..., I may have just decided what I'll be doing this evening!

The Presentation Dinner was a great success, and I'm sure all those that attended had a great time. I'd like to thank Matt from Tackleworld for attending; it's great to see our major sponsor at these types of events. I'd also like to thank Nicole Rogowski, from the Chronicle, and David Bauche for attending as well. And as a bonus, there were some great photos of some of the presentations in the Chronicle the following week. Thanks to Nicole for those.

We ran the Sausage Sizzle at the Tackleworld Expo again this year. It was a difficult weekend as this year it was the same weekend as the Kalkite outing. That will not be the case in the future, as the Family and Community Day will follow the Labour Day long weekend in the future. I'd like to thank all those that took the time out of their day and weekend to run the BBQ. Without your support we just wouldn't be able to give that little bit back to our major sponsor.

### **36<sup>th</sup> Annual Burrinjuck Convention**

It's that time of year again, and planning is well underway for this year's Burrinjuck Convention. I know that as I'm the Burrinjuck Chairman this year, and I also know that Chris Head is well underway in sorting out the sponsorship. It's all shaping up to be another good event. There's a new perpetual trophy for Largest Native that's sponsored by The Fishing Shed in Wagga, thanks to Dave Wescombe for sponsoring that. We've also added extra trophies, which may entice some entries from non ANSA clubs or individuals, as well as cater better for those from ANSA clubs that attend Burrinjuck, but prefer not to fish ANSA line classes. We've also provided some of our larger sponsors with posters and flyers, so hopefully we'll see some additional entries from that. You can check out the [Public Flyer Here](#)

With Burrinjuck currently at 92 %, all we need now is some good weather over the weekend, and, here it comes, more volunteers to ensure we can put on a great weekend. I have to say that I was a little disappointed in the lack of volunteers putting their name down at the last meeting. Maybe it's still a bit far off for some, not sure. Anyway, we need volunteers to set up on Friday the 5<sup>th</sup> November, and to cook meals etc from 5<sup>th</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>. It's one of those events where we need our members to assist; it can't be done just by the Committee. So please put some time aside over this weekend to assist. We have Cabin 10 and another cabin available for those that assist over the weekend. If you will not be at the General Meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> October to put your name on the rosters, give me a call on my mobile (0427 932 504) and leave a message if I don't answer, or send me an email at [greg-rose@netspace.net.au](mailto:greg-rose@netspace.net.au).

### **Annual Report**

The Annual Report is done and was available at the Presentation Dinner and the last meeting. If you haven't got yours, get in touch with me and we'll make sure you get one.

### **Recent and Future Outings**

In this issue of the newsletter there is an article on the August outing to Buckenderra, Lake Eucumbene, and a couple of photos. Well done to Steve Borkowskis for putting that together. I'd like to see this become a regular section for the Newsletter. If you'd like to put a few words together for an

outing report, let one of the committee know. A couple of simple guidelines for the articles are no more than 3 pages overall in length, including photos, with between one and two pages of text.

I didn't attend the Kalkite outing; however I've heard that the fishing wasn't easy, but on the other hand at least one very good fish was caught. Check Steve's Recorder article for more details.

The October outing is the Wagga-Wagga Boat Club Anglers ANSA Convention at Talbingo on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>; We've already sent off the Clubs registration for those who had put their names down, to make sure we got the entries in for the Early Bird prize. Entries are still open however, and the accommodation could fit a couple more if you want to come along. This is a great convention. The fishing is usually fairly hard, but there are good fish there for those that put the time in. With Blowering at 89% it may be an interesting weekend. Let me know if you'd like to attend, and I'll sort your entry and accommodation.

Well, that's it for me this month,

Cheers

Greg Davis

President

*Work fills in time between fishing trips.*



## *Secretary's Report*

**Hello all Members & Visitors,**

### **Members Survey**

Well the member's survey has been deployed since early August and to date we have only had 18 responses, which is a little disappointing. Thank you to those members that have completed the survey as there is some great information that we can work with. Remember this was an opportunity to let us know what you want out of your club and how we can live up to your expectations. If you don't have the link drop an email to the club email address and I will resend it. I will close off the survey Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October so I can table the results at the October meeting.

**Tackle World Expo** I would like to thank those members that gave up their time to assist at the Tackle World Expo on the barbecue it was much appreciated. Matt and the team at Tackle World also pass on their thanks and from all accounts it was a successful event. Although I didn't purchase anything many other members took the opportunity to snap up a good deal. I did have a chat to a number of the presenters and managed to pick up a few tips and tricks for my next fishing outing.

**Membership** Just a reminder if you have not renewed your membership you will not be eligible for fish captures points for the 2010/2011 year.

Membership forms are available from

[http://www.canberrafishos.com/Forms/CFC\\_Membership\\_1011.pdf](http://www.canberrafishos.com/Forms/CFC_Membership_1011.pdf) and can be posted to **The Secretary - PO Box 325 Civic Square, ACT 2608**. If you have any issues with this please do not hesitate to give me a call.

### **Lifejacket Reforms from 1st November 2010 in NSW**

For those people who did not make the September meeting, Mick McKenzie from NSW Maritime attended and brought us up to speed on the changes to life jacket requirements that will come into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> of November in NSW.

**We would like to thank Mick for giving up his time again to come to our meeting and pass on some very valuable information.**

The major change that you all need to be aware of in our local (NSW) region is, boat owners in the under 4.8 metres category who wish to operate on Alpine waterways (***Lake Burrinjuck, Lake Eucumbene, Lake Jindabyne, Khancoban Pondage, the Swampy Plains River, Mannus Lake, and all navigable waters contained within the boundaries of the Kosciusko National Park as reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 - NSW***) will be required wear a life jacket at all times. Suggest keeping an eye on the maritime website [http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/wh/lifejacket\\_reforms.html](http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/wh/lifejacket_reforms.html) as other area's like Googong Dam and it was suggested Blowering Dam could fall into this category.

For those people who have the new inflating PFD type vests and have had them for over 12 months I would suggest you check the manufacturer's requirement for servicing. If you are unsure drop into Kens Marine in Fyshwick or the NSW Maritime office and they will be able to help you out.

If you are in the market for a new inflatable PFD life jacket Stormy Australia have put together some member pricing for us. Send me an email if you want further information on pricing. Check out Stormy Australia site <http://www.stormyaustralia.com/> for information on the new life jackets.

May all your fishy dreams eventually come true!



Chris Head

## **SOMETHING TO REMEMBER**

### **IF YOUR BOAT IS UNDER 4.8M**

### **YOU WILL NEED TO WEAR A LIFE JACKET ALL THE TIME**

### **YOU ARE ON THE WATER AT THE BURRINJUCK CONVENTION**

### **TO COMPLY WITH THE NEW RULES**

# *RECORDERS REPORT*

Hi All

Well to state the obvious we've had plenty of rain in the past few months and the lakes are rising like you wouldn't believe, and this normally equates to good fishing, unless you like fishing the rivers which are likely to be high and coloured. At the time of writing this article Burrinjuck is at 91% and rising which should make for a brilliant Convention with the water almost lapping at the Convention site.

## **Recent Outings**

### **August: Buckenderra (Lake Eucumbene)**

I won't go into too much detail in this report otherwise it will be duplicating a lot of what is in another Outing report in this newsletter so I will keep it simple. Seven Members attended catching 12 Rainbow Trout, I seemed to have the magic touch with 8 of these caught on my rods; it was unusual as everyone else was doing the same thing, and we even swapped spots.

Chris Head accounts for the only Masters Rainbow of the Outing at 1.20kg on 1kg line.

### **September: Kalkite (Lake Jindabyne)**

Thirteen Members attended the Kalkite Outing accounting for 26 fish consisting of 12 Brown Trout, 10 Rainbow Trout, 3 Atlantic Salmon, and 1 Brook Trout.

Chris Lemmon caught the standout fish of the Outing a 3.00kg Brown on 1kg line (645mm), Steve Bailey caught the next best Brown at 2.20kg on 1kg line (which was 5mm short of Masters Length).

There were no Rainbows that were too exciting the best coming in at 920g.

Glen Malam caught the best Atlantic Salmon at 1.68kg on 1kg line, it measured 580mm and we will be submitting it for State and National Length Records (Atlantic Trophy length is only 50cm). Ben Lemmon also caught a nice Atlantic which went 1.15kg cleaned.

New member Hendrik Maat caught the only elusive Brook Trout of the Outing which was 380mm, caught on Chunky Cheese Power bait.

Tom Stanfield had a good Outing with 3 Masters Browns to his name. He even caught one lurecasting which went 1.72kg on 1kg line, showing his Dad how it's done.

## **Other Captures**

Anthony Heiser landed a Carp of 5.54kg on 1kg line in the Queanbeyan River. It was his PB Carp and highest pointscoring fish to date.

Andrew McGovern has been cleaning up at Lake Jindabyne, captures submitted include; Brown Trout 3.95kg on 1kg, Brown Trout 3.31kg on 1kg lurecasting, Brown Trout 3.64kg on 3kg Fly-fishing, Atlantic Salmon 2.08kg on 1kg, Atlantic Salmon 1.47kg on 1kg lurecasting, Rainbow Trout 1.46kg on 1kg lurecasting, Brook Trout 0.72kg on 1kg lurecasting.

## **Upcoming Outings**

### **Talbingo Convention 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> October**

This is a great Outing and I would totally recommend it to anyone considering going. The fishing is tough but there are some awesome fish to be caught for those who persist or just get lucky. Apart from the fishing the Convention has a great vibe, massive raffle, good food, and plenty of opportunity to socialize. It's just a good place to be.

### **Burrinjuck Convention 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November**

Burrinjuck should be good this year with the water level rising the way it is it should be close enough to 100% by November. I'm looking forward to fishing in the shade of the trees only 10 meters away from the Convention site! The more people we have there to help the lighter the work will be which

means everyone should be able to spend plenty of time fishing. The fish should really put on some condition with the rising water.

### **2009/10 ANSA Presentation Night**

The ANSA Presentation night was held by the St George Sport fishing Club in Sydney recently, CFC members in attendance were Shane Jasprizza, Steve Borkowskis, Jamie Stanfield and Tom Stanfield. It was good to meeting some people from other clubs and put faces to names so to speak.

### **We won the following:**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place - Sport fishing Freshwater - Tom Stanfield (Golden Perch 4.04kg on 2kg)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Sport fishing Freshwater – Anthony Heiser (Golden Perch 3.33kg on 2kg)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Lurecasting Freshwater – Steve Borkowskis (Golden Perch 4.65kg on 2kg)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Lurecasting Freshwater – Anthony Heiser (Golden Perch 3.62kg on 2kg)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Land based Game fishing – Chris Clark (Australian Salmon 3.23kg on 2kg)**

That's about all from me for another month. With the days getting longer and warmer hopefully we all get to do a bit more fishing!

Cheers



Steve

### **CFC BOARD FISH 2010-2011**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Angler</b>
<b>Atlantic Salmon</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>Andrew McGovern</b>
<b>Australian Bonito</b>	<b>1.87</b>	<b>Glen Malam</b>
<b>Australian Salmon</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>Greg Davis</b>
<b>Blue Morwong</b>	<b>0.97</b>	<b>Brian Stacy</b>
<b>Brook Trout</b>	<b>0.72</b>	<b>Andrew McGovern</b>
<b>Brown Trout</b>	<b>3.95</b>	<b>Andrew McGovern</b>
<b>Dusky Flathead</b>	<b>1.61</b>	<b>Jamie Stanfield</b>
<b>European Carp</b>	<b>9.60</b>	<b>Steve Borkowskis</b>
<b>Hairtail</b>	<b>3.60</b>	<b>Chris Clark</b>
<b>Mulloway</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>Colin Clark</b>
<b>Rainbow Trout</b>	<b>1.46</b>	<b>Andrew McGovern</b>
<b>Snapper</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>Brian Stacy</b>
<b>Snapper</b>	<b>0.55</b>	<b>Keith Smith</b>
<b>Tailor</b>	<b>0.81</b>	<b>Keith Smith</b>
<b>Yellowtail Kingfish</b>	<b>4.05</b>	<b>Greg Davis</b>

# CFC Championship 2010-2011

<b>Championship Update</b>		<b>CFC Best Fish</b>	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Tackle World Canberra</i>			
Andrew McGovern**	863	<b>*** BEACH ***</b>	
Steve Borkowskis	540	<b>Australian Salmon</b>	
Anthony Heiser	443	1.55kg on 2kg	
Jamie Stanfield	431	<b>Greg Davis</b>	
Glen Malam	409	93 Points	
<b>Ladies Club Champion Update</b>		<b>*** BLUEWATER ***</b>	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: May Sum Chinese Restaurant</i>		<b>Yellowtail Kingfish</b>	
Karen Wade*	219	2.79kg on 6kg	
		<b>Glen Malam</b>	
		70 Points	
		<b>*** ESTUARY ***</b>	
		<b>Dusky Flathead</b>	
<b>Junior Club Champion Update</b>		1.61kg on 1kg	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: May Sum Chinese Restaurant</i>		<b>Jamie Stanfield</b>	
Tom Stanfield	365	161 Points	
		<b>*** FRESHWATER ***</b>	
		<b>European Carp</b>	
		5.54kg on 1kg	
		<b>Anthony Heiser</b>	
<b>Land Based Club Champion Update</b>		443 Points	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Jax Transtate</i>			
Andrew McGovern**	549	<b>*** ROCKS ***</b>	
Steve Borkowskis	529		
Anthony Heiser	443	Vacant	
Tom Stanfield	242		
Brian Stacy*	156		
<b>Freshwater Club Champion Update</b>		<b>*** BEST SHARK or RAY ***</b>	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: BTS</i>			
Andrew McGovern**	863	Vacant	
Steve Borkowskis	540		
Anthony Heiser	443		
Chris Lemmon*	387		
Glen Malam	292		
		<b>All Tackle Champion Update</b>	
<b>Saltwater Club Champion Update</b>		<i>Proudly Sponsored by: JB's Outboard Service Centre</i>	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Canberra Diamond Blade Suppliers</i>		Anthony Heiser	12
Jamie Stanfield	285	Keith Smith	12
Chris Clark**	144	Brian Stacy	9
Tom Stanfield	123	Greg Davis	8
Glen Malam	117	Steve Borkowskis	8

<b>Most Versatile Angler Update</b>		<b>Sub Junior All Tackle Champion Update</b>	
Andrew McGovern	13	<i>Proudly Sponsored by: May Sum Chinese Restaurant</i>	
Steve Borkowskis	13	Tom Stanfield	6
Tom Stanfield	11		
Jamie Stanfield	6		
Steve Bailey	4		
<b>Flathead 'Total Length' Trophy</b>		<b>Golden Perch 'Total Length' Trophy</b>	
<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Tackle World Canberra</i>		<i>Proudly Sponsored by: Pack &amp; Send Canberra</i>	
Jamie Stanfield	1040mm	Ashley Barber	470mm
<i>Last updated 14th September 2010</i>			

## August Photo Competition Photo's



**Two of many carp caught at Centennial Park SYDNEY by Steve Borkowskis**

**Fish weighed in Top photo 7.07kg bottom photo 9.60 kg**

# AUGUST OUTING: BUCKENDERRA (LAKE EUCUMBENE)

**Report by Steve Borkowskis**

The August Outing has become a bit of a traditional Lake Eucumbene event. It's an Outing I haven't missed since joining the Club. It's always great to get up to Eucumbene to chase some trout regardless of the location on the lake, and the more Members the merrier in my opinion. This year the Members in attendance were Greg Davis, Jamie Stanfield, Tom Stanfield, Keith Smith, Hendrik Maat, Chris Head and Steve Borkowskis.

I had arranged to travel up and fish with Chris Head, we both took Friday off work to get up there early to check things out, and get a bit of a pre-outing fishing in. Chris hooked up the boat just in case, and that was despite the reports of the lake level dropping below 20%, and difficulties launching due to recent rain and muddy conditions. We took it easy on the way up, stopping for lunch in Cooma and dropping into Alpine Angler for a sticky beak.

We eventually arrived at Buckenderra and as we pulled up to our cabin we saw Keith on the balcony of the cabin next door rigging up his rods. We quickly decided that we would head out to fish the banks for the afternoon.

We all jumped into Keith's Prado and drove several kilometres down the bumpy tracks searching for a suitable bank to fish. We finally decided on a point near the start of Wainui Bay, it had muddy banks with plenty of yabby holes, and piles of large granite boulders.

Keith started proceedings with a fiesty Rainbow within the first 10 minutes on 'Chunky Cheese' Powerbait, so things were looking positive!

Another couple of hours passed without a touch so we decided to try something different. I pulled in a bait rod and set up with a scrub worm under a bubble float, while Chris tried a bigeye blade. I perched myself up on a large granite boulder and cast out. The gentle offshore breeze was taking the float out further and further, and I was paying out line as it went. I was chatting to Chris next to me and lost sight of the float, while I was looking for it the line shot out towards the middle of the lake! I pulled up to set the hook but the fish was gone.

I rebaited and threw the float back out, Chris was still casting the blade from the rock next to me when his other rod with bait went off. While he was fighting the fish I had a take on the float and we had a double hook-up! We both landed our fish, Chris a respectable Rainbow of 0.85kg, and I had Brown of 1.57kg. Things went quiet for a while after this, Keith had a lot of bites, and I picked up a couple of small Rainbows as we were packing up just after dark.



When we arrived back at the cabins, Tom and Jamie had just arrived and Greg and new member Hendrik weren't far away. Chris and I were in a cabin with Jamie and Tom and Jamie had arranged spag boll for dinner. The word from the Office was that the boat ramp was unusable due to recent rains and it wasn't going to be relocated until lunchtime the next day so we planned a bank session. We watched Friday night footy, a few bottles of red wine evaporated, and we had a good chance to get to know Hendrik a little bit better.

It was a good thing we decided to fish the banks as in the morning it was quite windy. This only became worse throughout the day with a gale force North West winds whipping up a 1 metre swell. We ended up back at the same place as the previous day, and all 7 members were fishing within a 200m stretch of bank. I was lucky enough to bag out on Rainbows up to 0.97kg by about 9am, Chris Head picked up two Rainbows with a cracker of 1.20kg fishing a shallow area with Powerbait and home grown tigerworms. Tom Stanfield pulled in a few Rainbows in the afternoon to about 0.70kg. Hendrik caught his first fish for the Club, which was a Rainbow of 0.88kg also on the 'Chunky Cheese'.

It was a long day on the banks, but there were plenty of fish to be caught if you put in the time and effort. It would have been nice to have a bit more action from the trout but that's just fishing for you. It was good to get back to the Cabins and sit in a comfortable chair and get out of the wind. Chris was the chef in the kitchen, cooking us up a big dinner of steak, sausages, mashed potato and fancy Polk-a-dot corn. We had dug a few big yabbies out of the mud during the day which Tom ate as an entree; he hadn't eaten them before and seemed to think they were pretty good. We were all pretty tired from the long day out in the wind, I think Chris got sucked into watching the Lara Croft movie on TV and ended up falling asleep on the couch.





The wind blew all night and we had some heavy rain to go with it around 2am. By Sunday morning the rain

had all but stopped however the wind was still blowing. There was the odd short drizzly shower coming through off the mountains. After a bit of a sleep in we were on the same bank just after 7am. The trout didn't want to play for some reason, Greg had a good take that didn't hook up, I found I'd been busted off when I checked a rod, and Chris had a knot failure. We had a couple of chances but with 14 rods out for 3 hours you might expect a little more.

We arrived back to the cabins around 10am, Jamie cooked us up a late bacon and eggs breakfast and we packed up and headed off home.

**When: 14-15 August 2010**

**Where: Buckenderra Holiday Village, Lake Eucumbene**  
**([www.buckenderra.com.au](http://www.buckenderra.com.au))**

**Distance: 159km (less than 2 hours driving)**

**What we did: Landbased baitfishing and lurecasting**

**Fish caught: 12 Rainbows (6 Rainbows and 1 Brown on Friday afternoon)**

# Tips from Yesteryear

From the pen of Keith Smith

This is the third of an occasional series of interesting articles. This item is from a now out of print publication, "**Fish and Fisheries of Australia**". By T. C. Roughley, second edition. Published by Angus and Robertson 1952: This article has relevance to early days the district which was later named the Australian Capital Territory, Canberra was not in existence for some years to come; the mentioning of a pre 1893 stocking of Cod in Lake George is mentioned, from the comments it appears that the Cod were long lived and were breeding in the enclosed waters of Lake George for a period of over fifty years until the lake waters evaporated and the fish died. See details below. It is interesting to note that Cod were thought of as a premier fresh water food fish around 1950. Set lines, drum nets and netting in general were legal methods of commercial fishing for Cod at this time.

## ***COD Maccullochella maquariensis***

### **Selections from Pages 142-146**

The Murray Cod is far and away the most important freshwater food fish in Australia. It occurs throughout the immense freshwater portion of the Murray River and its many tributaries, from South Australia through New South Wales and in Queensland and Victoria. In Queensland it is found in greatest numbers in the Condamine River, which with other large tributaries eventually form the Darling River in New South Wales. It also inhabits the headwaters of the Richmond and Clarence Rivers and those of the Dawson and Mary Rivers in Queensland.

In addition to this widespread natural habitat, Murray Cod for a long time lived, thrived and multiplied in Lake George adjacent to which the Australian capital, Canberra was built. They were liberated there by Sir Terrance Murray and became so prolific that in 1893 the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, Lindsay Thompson, advocated the use of an otter trawl to capture them. At a later date, however, Lake George dried up and for a long period of years sheep grazed where Murray Cod were in such abundance. However, it filled up again in 1950 after abnormally heavy rains, and with an average rainfall to replace the water lost by evaporation it should remain filled for many years, in which case consideration might be given to restocking it with Murray Cod.

It has frequently been claimed the Murray cod grows to a weight of 150 pounds. It may well, but whether such a weight has complete authenticity I have been unable to determine. That it grows to a weight of over 100 pounds has been thoroughly well established, and there is an authentic record of a cod caught in the Murray River in South Australia in 1924 that weighed 125 pounds after it was gutted.

*Habits and growth.* The Murray Cod is most active during the summer months and at night; during the day it frequently seeks shelter under logs and snags. It moves over long distances of the river, and fish tagged at Bringagee on the Murrumbidgee River were caught later at Narrandera, 150 miles upstream. Its activities increase during the spawning period, principally September, October and November, when it is most susceptible to capture in the stationary drum nets, but fishing in any form is prohibited during this period.

The Murray Cod is an omnivorous feeder and any form of flesh is likely to find home in its capacious stomach. It probably eats more shrimps, mussels, fish (including smaller Murray Cod) and crayfish than anything else, but frogs, dead animals of all kinds small enough to be swallowed, and birds are always welcomed. Grubs, particularly wood-boring grubs, worms and centipedes are in the nature of hors-d'oeuvres, which it finds irresistible.

The growth rate of the Murray Cod was studied by J.O. Langtry, a biologist who was until recently on the staff of the Victorian Fisheries Department. He found that on average the Murray Cod is from 8 inches to 10 inches in length when a year old; 12 inches to 14 inches when two years old; 16 inches to 19 inches when three years old; 21 inches to 23 inches when four years old and 24 inches to 26 inches when five years old.

*Production.* The quantity of fish marketed from New South Wales sources during the year 1948-9 amounted to 178606 pounds; much of it was consigned to Melbourne, Ballarat, and other centres in Victoria, and the remainder was consumed in towns adjacent to the rivers where the fish were caught.

*Extracts from pages 219-20*

*Angling* Almost any form of flesh can be used for bait. The most popular forms of live bait are yabbies, frogs, carp and other small fish, grubs of all descriptions including wood boring grubs, worms and mussels, while dead bait covers a very wide range and includes the flesh of crayfish, fish flesh, fresh bird or rabbit gut, meat of various kinds, and small birds. The spinal cord of cattle is also highly favoured.

Murray cod may bite at all times of the day and night, but evening is probably the best. During the daytime they usually hide under logs or snags, and anglers frequently cast their lines close to such submerged objects. When fishing in these situations, however, it is advisable to use heavy tackle; otherwise the line is likely to be fouled.

Mr W Hill, a professional fisherman, with a lifetime of experience on the Murrumbidgee River, informed me that if he desires to catch Murray cod when the river is high in the winter he uses centipedes for bait; these he gathers by pulling the bark off dead trees. "Do you use gloves?" I asked him. "No I gather them with my bare fingers and put them in my coat pocket." "But don't they bite you?" "Oh sometimes," he said, "but their bites don't hurt and I never feel any ill effects".

Mr Hill stated that he dangles the live centipede on the surface of the water and if there is a cod within a hundred yards it will come for the bait.

Editors Note.

The above article is substantially abridged; there is more information detailing professional fishing early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and detail of the decline in the cod fishery because of over fishing by professional fishermen.

Anybody be interested in more detail from this source please contact, **Keith Smith.**



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