



NEWSLETTER

Volume 16 Issue 9 April 2013

Winner of the March 2013 Photo Competition



Jon Vogel

The Armchair Angler with a Red Gunard

www.canberrafishos.com

www.canberra-card-out.com

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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**

President's Report

Hi everyone,

There's only a few months left in the annual Club Championship and the fishing has been getting better each day. This month's outing is to Windamere Dam – probably the best native fishing spot in Australia. I'm sure the Recorder will see a flood of golden perch and catfish captures this month!

Looking ahead, May is shaping up to be another big month:

First up, we will be discussing dates for next year's (2013-14) club outings at the May general meeting. The Committee has drawn up a list of suggestions to get the ball rolling and Anthony has prepared a list of school holidays and moon phases - so come along and have your say!

Secondly, we will also discuss target species for next year's Total Length Award Competition at the May meeting. Judging from the level of interest in the 2012-13 competition, carp have been an overwhelming success in the freshwater section, but there has been less interest in Bream in the saltwater section. What species do you think we should target in 2013-14?

Also at the May general meeting, globe-trotting fishing legend Pat Brennan will return to provide a talk on Trout Tactics for winter. Pat's knowledge and expertise in fishing the mountain lakes is unparalleled – don't miss this opportunity.

Finally, the May club outing will be held on 18-19 May in the Bega/Brogo/Tathra area. Brogo gives members the opportunity to target Australian Bass in what is one of the premier spots in southern NSW. This outing also provides access to great estuary, beach and rocks fishing. And if you have access to a boat that's a bit more seaworthy, the Canberra Gamefishing Club's annual Yellowfin Tournament will be held on the same weekend, just down the road in Bermagui. Don't miss this one – there are so many options!

The next Club meeting will be held on 14th May and is guaranteed to be more interesting than televised coverage of the Federal Budget. Don't forget our Lucky Membership Draw – last month's winner was Andrew McGovern, but he wasn't there, so the jackpot for May is \$150. Make sure you're there to be in the running!

Keep safe on the water,

Glen Malam



Recorder's Report

Hello again all,

With a large gap between the Narooma and Windamere outings, it has been a bit of a quiet month for the Recorder. The Fresh Water Length competition is really hotting up with a few contenders going to town on the local Carp populations. A few big sessions by Luke Robbie and Pat Luttrell bought them within ear shot of the leader, Tim Jones. Not to be out done Tim submitted capture sheets listing another 10 metres of Carp in the closing moments of the month and has re-opened his commanding lead.

A hand written capture sheet from the President's son, Chris Malam, listed a few interesting species from the northern coast of Western Australia that have added a few new board fish entries that are unlikely to be beaten. I made a good attempt at knocking Chris Lemmon off the Yellow Belly board fish with the capture I showcase in my photo below. From what I hear though, it would have been a short lived victory with the capture sheets for Windamere yet to be delivered.

As I said, it was a quiet month so that's all I have for you this month. The competition year end is getting closer so if you want to make a last minute dash for victory I reckon your best chance is to get down the coast and chase some Bream. Good Luck!

John.



Soon to Expire Scales

1	STANFIELD, Jamie	Rapala Digital	8 kg	24/06/2013
80	DAVIS, Greg	Rapala Digital	25 kg	9/06/2013
99	SMITH, Keith	Crane Sports		9/06/2013
119	MURRAY, Bruce	Trac	10 kg	7/06/2013
120	WALTON, Dave	Rapala Digital	10 kg	7/06/2013

Club Championship

Open

COLIN CLARK	904
SHANE JASPRIZZA	811
BRIAN STACY	711
ANTHONY HEISER	709
GLEN MALAM	698

Ladies

KAREN MALAM	403
ROSE DAVIS	254

Junior

TOM STANFIELD	646
KYLE WALTON	258

Land Based

COLIN CLARK	904
SHANE JASPRIZZA	811
ANTHONY HEISER	657
TOM STANFIELD	638
GLEN MALAM	617

Fresh Water

ANTHONY HEISER	446
CHRIS LEMMON	290
LUKE ROBBIE	272
KYLE WALTON	258
ROSE DAVIS	254

Salt Water

COLIN CLARK	830
SHANE JASPRIZZA	734
GLEN MALAM	486
BRIAN STACY	464
TOM STANFIELD	446

Most Versatile Angler

GLEN MALAM	12
BRIAN STACY	11
TOM STANFIELD	11
ANTHONY HEISER	11
SHANE JASPRIZZA	10

Salt Water Length *(Black Bream, Boney Bream, Pikey Bream, Yellowfin Bream)*

CHRIS MALAM	1,121
CHRIS HEAD	840
BRIAN STACY	840
KAREN MALAM	515
TIMOTHY JONES	350

Fresh Water Length *(European Carp)*

TIMOTHY JONES	45,715
LUKE ROBBIE	33,840
PATRICK LUTTRELL	23,570
SHANE JASPRIZZA	12,590
KYLE WALTON	10,160

Board Fish

ALBACORE	9.60 kg	Chris HEAD
ATLANTIC SALMON	4.28 kg	Chris LEMMON
AUSTRALIAN BASS	1.55 kg	Timothy JONES
AUSTRALIAN BONITO	1.48 kg	Shane JASPRIZZA
AUSTRALIAN SALMON	1.88 kg	Chris CLARK
BANJO RAY	1.68 kg	Tom STANFIELD
BARRAMUNDI	22.00 kg	Dave WALTON
BROWN TROUT	2.28 kg	Albert MAGASSY
COMMON SHOVELNOSED RAY	2.60 kg	Glen MALAM
DOGTOTH TUNA	5.78 kg	Chris MALAM
DUSKY FLATHEAD	2.78 kg	Brian STACY
EUROPEAN CARP	5.64 kg	Timothy JONES
FIDDLER RAY	3.17 kg	Colin CLARK
FORKTAILED CATFISH (BLUE)	0.85 kg	Anthony HEISER
FRIGATE MACKEREL	1.55 kg	Shane JASPRIZZA
GIANT TREVALLY	3.79 kg	Chris MALAM
GOLDEN PERCH	3.58 kg	Chris LEMMON
JAVELIN FISH	2.50 kg	Steve BAILEY
MORWONG	1.24 kg	Brian STACY
MURRAY COD	4.70 kg	John BOSCH
RAINBOW TROUT	1.08 kg	Anthony HEISER
REDFIN PERCH	0.96 kg	Mick JEWRY
SAND FLATHEAD	0.50 kg	Brian STACY
SILVER PERCH	2.00 kg	Andrew MCGOVERN
SNAPPER	3.30 kg	Tom STANFIELD
SWEETLIP EMPEROR	1.98 kg	Chris MALAM
TAILOR	0.68 kg	Shane JASPRIZZA
WHALER SHARK	1.56 kg	Chris MALAM
YELLOWFIN BREAM	0.84 kg	Brian STACY
YELLOWTAIL KINGFISH	4.32 kg	Glen MALAM

Best Fish

Fresh Water

EUROPEAN CARP

2.54kg on 1 kg

Rose DAVIS

Blue Water

ALBACORE

9.60kg on 15 kg

Chris HEAD

Estuary

DUSKY FLATHEAD

2.78kg on 2 kg

Brian STACY

Rocks

AUSTRALIAN SALMON

1.02kg on 1 kg

Shane JASPRIZZA

Beach

FRIGATE MACKEREL

1.55kg on 1 kg

Shane JASPRIZZA

Shark or Ray

FIDDLER RAY

3.17kg on 1 kg

Colin CLARK

All Tackle Championship

Open

ANTHONY HEISER	31
BRIAN STACY	18
GLEN MALAM	17
KAREN MALAM	16
JOHN VOGEL	15

Junior

TOM STANFIELD	11
KYLE WALTON	4
CONNOR DAVIS	3
LILLY MCNIECE	1
JUSTIN MCNIECE	1
TYSON DAVIS	1

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 25/04/2013

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS	LINE	POINTS
DIVISION 1: Landbased - Game Species					
1 Luie Arellano	Australian Land Based Angle	TUNA - NORTHERN BL	12.320	8	231.000
2 Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	MULLOWAY	16.000	8	200.000
3 Manny Kandros	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	MULLOWAY	20.500	15	136.667
DIVISION 2: Landbased - Non-Game Species					
1 Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	ROCK BLACKFISH	2.400	2	180.000
2 Peter Oberg	Australian Land Based Angle	CATFISH - FRESHWAT	2.520	2	126.000
3 Peter Oberg	Australian Land Based Angle	ROCK BLACKFISH	1.370	2	102.750
DIVISION 3: Sportfishing - Saltwater Lakes and Estuaries					
1 Kevin Calleja	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	FLATHEAD - DUSKY	5.800	2	290.000
2 Ron Camp	St George Sportfishing Club	FLATHEAD - DUSKY	5.640	2	282.000
3 Ron Camp	St George Sportfishing Club	FLATHEAD - DUSKY	4.460	2	223.000
DIVISION 4: Sportfishing - From a Boat (Outside)					
1 Barry Preston	Nowra Sport Fishing Club	MARLIN - STRIPED	80.500	8	1207.500
2 Michael Sciberras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	TUNA - SOUTHERN BL	68.000	24	425.000
3 John Stathakis	Botany Bay Sport Fishing Cl	TUNA - STRIPED	3.780	2	283.500
DIVISION 5: Sportfishing - Freshwater					
1 Todd Moeser	Sea Bees Boating Club	COD - MURRAY	7.180	2	287.200
2 Todd Moeser	Sea Bees Boating Club	COD - MURRAY	5.140	2	205.600
3 Grant Evans	Australian Land Based Angle	PERCH - GOLDEN	4.100	2	205.000
DIVISION 6: Lure Fishing - Saltwater					
1 Louis Whant	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	TUNA - STRIPED	4.500	2	337.500
2 Terry Tatton	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	TUNA - STRIPED	4.300	2	322.500
3 Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	TUNA - STRIPED	3.600	2	270.000
DIVISION 7: Lure Fishing - Freshwater					
1 Matt Prigmore	Sea Bees Boating Club	COD - MURRAY	6.050	2	242.000
2 Matt Prigmore	Sea Bees Boating Club	COD - MURRAY	5.950	2	238.000
3 Grant Evans	Australian Land Based Angle	PERCH - GOLDEN	4.700	2	235.000

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 25/04/2013

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS	LINE	POINTS
DIVISION 8: Flyfishing					
1 Scott Maclean	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.850	2	111.000
2 Scott Maclean	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.700	2	102.000
3 Scott Maclean	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	1.640	2	98.400
DIVISION 9: Gamefishing					
1 Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	MARLIN - BLACK	86.000	10	1032.000
2 Andrew Burke	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing	TUNA - SOUTHERN BL	109.000	24	681.250
3 Leo Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	MARLIN - BLACK	73.000	24	365.000
DIVISION 10: Capture by a Lady					
1 Nathalie D'Hyon	St George Sportfishing Club	MULLOWAY	8.000	3	266.667
2 Faye Hanson	Nowra Sport Fishing Club	BASS - AUSTRALIAN	2.900	2	217.500
3 Melanie Evans	Australian Land Based Angle	PERCH - GOLDEN	3.600	2	180.000
DIVISION 11: Capture by a Junior Boy					
1 Hartley D'Hyon	St George Sportfishing Club	MARLIN - BLACK	30.500	15	244.000
2 Aaron Anderson	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	TUNA - STRIPED	4.000	3	200.000
3 Aaron Anderson	Wollongong Sportfishing Clu	TUNA - STRIPED	3.800	3	190.000
DIVISION 12: Capture by a Junior Girl					
1 Anyisia Oberg	Australian Land Based Angle	SALMON - AUSTRALIA	2.400	3	96.000
2 Rachel Camilleri	Botany Bay Sport Fishing Cl	PERCH - GOLDEN	1.610	2	80.500
3 VACANT	NO CLUB		0.000	0	0.000
DIVISION 13: Capture by a Sub-Junior					
1 Luke Windon	Botany Bay Sport Fishing Cl	TUNA - STRIPED	3.480	2	261.000
2 Brock Evans	Australian Land Based Angle	PERCH - GOLDEN	3.700	2	185.000
3 Ryder Evans	Australian Land Based Angle	PERCH - GOLDEN	3.500	2	175.000
DIVISION 14: Tag and Release					
1 Russell Enms	Wollongong Sportfishing Club				400
2 Mitchell Preston	Nowra Sport Fishing Club				250
3 Craig Stephens	Wollongong Sportfishing Club				240

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 25/04/2013

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS LINE	POINTS
DIVISION 15: Length Only - Carp				
1 Terry Tatton	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	CARP - EUROPEAN		940.000
2 Tony Steiner	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	CARP - EUROPEAN		930.000
3 Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	CARP - EUROPEAN		860.000
DIVISION 16: Length Only - Trout (All Species)				
1 Chris Lemmon	Canberra Fisherman's Club	SALMON - ATLANTIC		760.000
2 Jim Siarakas	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	SALMON - ATLANTIC		630.000
3 Michael Tweedie	Australian Land Based Anglers	TROUT - BROWN		420.000
DIVISION 17: Length Only - Australian Bass				
1 Matthew Day	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	BASS - AUSTRALIAN		535.000
2 Terry Tatton	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	BASS - AUSTRALIAN		519.000
3 Faye Hanson	Nowra Sport Fishing Club	BASS - AUSTRALIAN		470.000
DIVISION 18: Length Only - Bream (All Species)				
1 Adam Camilleri	Botany Bay Sport Fishing Club	BREAM - YELLOWFIN		439.000
2 Steve Golub	Australian Land Based Anglers	BREAM - YELLOWFIN		415.000
3 Bill Harvey	St George Sportfishing Club	BREAM - YELLOWFIN		405.000
3 Ray Agius	St George Sportfishing Club	BREAM - BLACK		405.000
DIVISION 19: Length Only - Flathead (All Species)				
1 Kayne Clark	Botany Bay Sport Fishing Club	FLATHEAD - DUSKY		910.000
2 Adam Camilleri	Botany Bay Sport Fishing Club	FLATHEAD - DUSKY		880.000
3 Robert Sciberras	Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Asso	FLATHEAD - DUSKY		870.000
DIVISION 20: Length Only - Australian Salmon				
1 Phil Turner	St George Sportfishing Club	SALMON - AUSTRALIA		675.000
2 James Furlong	Australian Land Based Anglers	SALMON - AUSTRALIA		610.000
3 Peter Oberg	Australian Land Based Anglers	SALMON - AUSTRALIA		583.000
DIVISION 21: Length Only - Yellowtail Kingfish				
1 Luke Nicholson	Australian Land Based Anglers	KINGFISH - YELLOWTAIL		1280.000
2 Kurt Staples	Australian Land Based Anglers	KINGFISH - YELLOWTAIL		1190.000
3 Andrew Critchley	Australian Land Based Anglers	KINGFISH - YELLOWTAIL		1070.000

ANSA NSW 12-Month Competition - Current Standings as at 25/04/2013

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	SPECIES	MASS LINE	POINTS
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DIVISION 22: Most Versatile Angler

ANGLERS NAME	CLUB	POINTS
Chris Stolk	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	20
Terry Tatton	Wollongong Sportfishing Club	14
Peter Oberg	Australian Land Based Anglers	7
Shane Jasprizza	Canberra Fisherman's Club	6
Faye Hanson	Nowra Sport Fishing Club	6

DIVISION 23: Champion Club

CLUB	POINTS
Wollongong Sportfishing Club	34
Australian Land Based Anglers	27
Sth Sydney Amateur Fishing Assoc	16
Botany Bay Sport Fishing Club	14
St George Sportfishing Club	13
Sea Bees Boating Club	10
Nowra Sport Fishing Club	8
Canberra Fisherman's Club	3

News & Stories

Fishing the Arctic, Part One

by Pat Brennan



I have recently returned from a fishing and family tour in Canada and Alaska. This third leg of the journey took myself and long time family and fishing mate, Andy McGovern, right up into the Arctic Circle.

The reason for traveling to such a far flung place was due to a realization that I am drawn to stunning looking fish. Years ago, I saw a photo in a US fly fishing magazine of a guy holding a salmonoid type fish that was so orange in colour that it looked completely fake. That fish was an Arctic Char and that photo became etched in my fishing soul. I simply had to fish for them. Many years later, with the benefit of the internet, I tracked down what appeared to be the best place to try and catch these incredible looking fish - High Arctic Lodge on Victoria Island in the northern Canadian province of Nunavut. For Andy and I, this was hoped to be the highlight of the entire trip.

However, we had to get there first. So, after departing Frontier Lodge and spending another night in Yellowknife, we departed the next morning for Cambridge Bay on the very south of Victoria Island. At Yellowknife airport, it wasn't hard to work out from the crowd who the likely anglers were who would be joining us on our trip. To our surprise, there were only four others, making it a small group. No complaints though. There were two brothers, Andrew and Mark. Both were Brits but Andrew resided in Montreal. Doc and Fred were two east

coast Americans. We exchanged pleasantries and Andy and I agreed immediately that these guys would be OK. Shared trips can have bad potential!

The flight came into Cambridge Bay on an overcast and drizzly day. We knew our luck couldn't last with the weather. Despite the conditions, we were warmly greeted by Fred Hamilton, the owner of High Arctic Lodge and Bill Brady, one of Fred's pilots. Bill looked like the quintessential pilot. Justifiably so, as it turned out. Bill is a retired commercial airline pilot who was forced to retire from commercial flying at age 60. He now flies with Fred at High Arctic during their busy but relatively short fishing and hunting season. With the greetings done, our gear and persons were loaded into a van and driven to a small dock where a small floatplane awaited.



This is the arctic folks. The flight north and a taste of what was to come.

The flight to the lodge, which is located about a third of the way up the island, took about an hour and a half but was totally awesome! We were only a few hundred feet above the ground the whole way and saw caribou, musk ox, wolves, swans, geese and a bunch of other wildlife. In fact, more than I have seen on any other Canadian trips I have done. High Arctic Lodge is reputed to be the northern most fishing lodge in the world. So far north in fact that we were well into the Arctic Circle and above the tree line. There were jokes about free trips on offer for anyone who spotted a tree. There were no trees and no free trips!

We could see the lodge ahead on the shore of a magnificent looking lake. Andy suffers from motion sickness and probably didn't enjoy the trip as much as I did but it all came good as we began to descend. The weather had cleared a lot and it was now sunny with a slight breeze. The landing was perfect and we taxied back to the floating dock where we met the

lodge staff. Again, genuine, warm greetings were the norm. We were helped with our luggage to our cabins and given the opportunity to settle in before dinner at 6pm. Andy and I had a cabin to ourselves. As we unpacked, gibbered and speculated about the coming week, it was clear that this was a level of excitement I had not experienced for years. This place held something special.



Caribou near the lodge

At dinner Dawn, Fred's wife, welcomed us and both she and Fred gave a rundown on how things would work for the week. Breakfast and dinner would be at scheduled times with packed lunches made up for the fishing trips for which we would fly to different destinations each day with four on board. Andy and I buddied up with two Brit brothers, Mark and Andrew. There were another two guys at dinner who we hadn't met at the airport. Doug and Patrick were entomologists studying biting insects in the north. They would fly about with Doc and Fred sampling as they went. They were immediately and affectionately dubbed "The Bug Guys". We got some very interesting info from them about the effects biting insects had on cattle and a few tips on reducing mosquito bites. Plus, they were really nice fellas too.

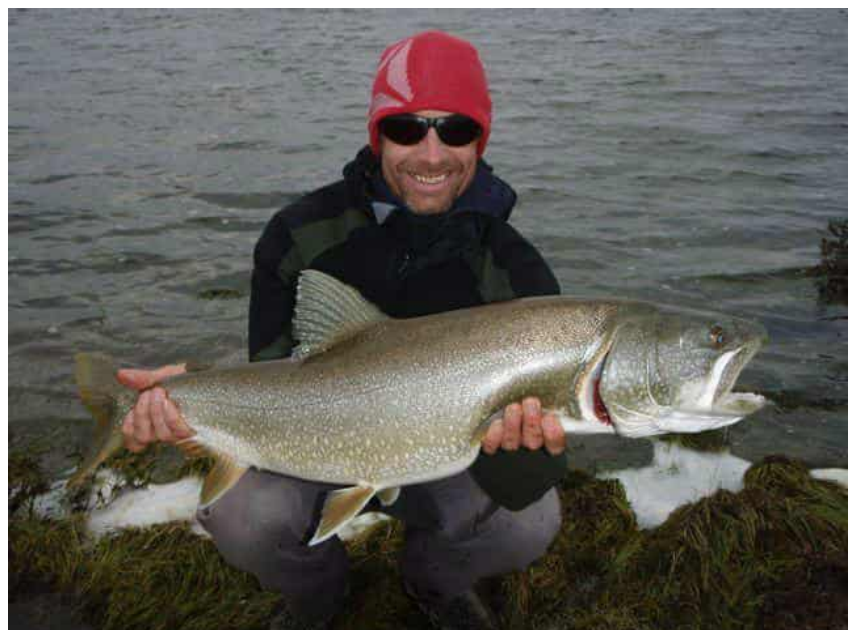
Another peculiarity during the week we arrived was that the sun would dip below the horizon for the first time in the summer. In fact, it wouldn't get much darker than a bright twilight for the entire week! So at 8pm, after dinner, the sun was still well up. We were pumped up and keen to fish. The lake where the lodge is situated only has lake trout. The arctic char are in different systems more connected to the coast. I was aware that there was some lake trout fishing at High Arctic but the char were the draw card. So even though Andy and I had just finished fishing one of the best lake trout fisheries in the world, for tonight at least, lake trout in the arctic would be better than nothing.



Here's one of the large lake trout caught behind the lodge on the first evening we arrived at High Arctic.

Brandon, one of the guides, suggested a spot where a creek runs in about 20 minute walk away. Fred gave us an interesting safety brief. Apparently if we saw any wolves they may be likely to follow us but unlikely to attack. However, if we see a grizzly bear, we should come straight back to the lodge! According to wildlife experts, grizzly bears are not present on the island but there are polar bears to the far north. The pilots on the other hand report seeing grizzlies regularly and have had a couple of close encounters at the lodge! At the end of the trip I agreed with the pilots as we had three grizzly sightings on my trip.

Anyway, undaunted at the prospects of being torn limb from limb, or at least watching someone who was slower than me get torn limb from limb, Andy, Andrew, Mark and I geared up with light spin sticks (10lb) and headed off. When we got to the creek mouth it looked very shallow and insignificant. So much so in fact that we wondered if we were in the right place. I crossed over to fish the other side whilst the others stuck together fishing the creek and working their way out into a



large bay. The water was only a meter or less deep but the others said there was a bit of a channel running along the opposite bank. The water in the arctic is absolutely gin clear but in these cloudy, evening conditions we couldn't see into the water but I knew the water I was fishing was incredibly shallow and I was getting weed on my lure most casts. I must confess that it looked very uninviting.



Mark with another, what an introduction

However, on the other side, Andy had quickly caught a lake trout on around 5 lb on a soft plastic. He then followed with another only a few casts later. I was just about to give up on my shallow side and cross over to the others when I had a swirl behind my lure at the end of the retrieve. I didn't see the fish but the size of the swirl suggested it was no five pounder.

A few casts later and I was hooked up to a decent fish. After a bit of a tussle I had caught a very nice 8 lb lake trout. Only a few more casts

after that and I had a 12 lb that gave me a great fight peeling off line and running across the bay and into the main basin. The others couldn't join me because they hadn't brought their waders. Unbelievably, a couple more casts and I hooked a beast. After a very impressive fight I had a lake trout of around 15 to 18lb rolling around in front of me. Seeing a fish that size gets the heart racing but landing, unhooking and releasing it was better. This was amazing fishing especially considering it was just a warm up.

On the other side things were ticking along and Andy had caught a couple more modest sized trout but then hooked something big and called me over to photograph it while he was still fighting it. It turned out to be a very nice fish of about 13-15 lb. Shortly afterwards Mark caught one of similar size. Before we knew it, it was 11 pm and we decided to call it quits so we weren't too buggered for the following day. Would the excited chatter whilst walking back to the lodge set the tone for the rest of the week? Would this place be fishing heaven?

It was hard to sleep after such amazing fishing with bright sunlight at midnight and the prospects of tangling with a fish that has been on my "Must Catch" list for a long time – the Arctic Char. Sleep did eventually come and the alarm woke me from a deep slumber.

After a great breakfast we loaded our gear into Bill's plane for the first fishing flight of the trip. Flying from spot to spot proved to be much more of a highlight than I possibly could have imagined. The country may sound uninteresting given the lack of features but it was anything but. The place is littered with tens of thousands of ponds and lakes interconnected with creeks, streams and rivers. The varying depths and colours of these bodies of water turned the landscape into a veritable kaleidoscope of blues, orange, green, yellow, white and every other blended combination. It was spectacular. Then remembering that we were in the arctic, quite a few of the lakes were still fully or partially frozen over. Incredible when you think it was nearing the end of summer in the arctic. Top that off with the abundance of wildlife on each journey and each flight was definitely something to look forward to.

Then there was the means of working out where to fish. The char and lake trout often congregated around places where rivers or streams flowed into lakes.

The water clarity allowed the pilots to fly over these likely looking spots, dip the wings and literally look for the fish. If they were there in numbers, we landed and fished. If not, we moved on to another spot.

Our first spot, Bill explained, was a lake trout spot only. The fish wouldn't be large but



Hooked up at the Ice Breaker spot on the beautiful red finned lake trout. A fish, first cast for everyone is a pretty good way to open the account.



Not big big fish, but as promised plentiful and very spirited fighters.

should be plentiful. I have to say I didn't see any fish when we passed over it but Bill said there was plenty. He landed the plane and we all jumped out and rigged up. The day was overcast and quite chilly but not windy and really no worse than a day in our Snowy Mountains in winter. Once we were all set we wandered down the beach toward the river mouth. As we got closer I noticed a school of fish swimming parallel to the beach. I had the fly rod rigged and quickly put a cast out and hooked up instantly.

The others followed with spoons and were all on within a couple of cranks. We hit that area for a good few hours and caught an unknown number of lake trout up to about four pounds. These were the very beautiful red finned lake trout. We had caught these at Frontier also.



It was pretty cool catching fish around your float plane only to hop in and head off to another spot.



We were there for the fishing for sure, but the lunches were a highlight nonetheless!

Some say they are a separate subspecies while others said the bright red fins and obvious colour difference was due to diet. Either way they were terrific fun and a great ice breaker.

The next spot held the promise of more trout and the much sought after char. Again, Bill's well trained eyes confirmed the presence of fish. We landed the plane and enjoyed a terrific packed lunch by the lakeshore.

As we enjoyed delicious sandwiches and coffee we found the skeleton of a decent sized lake trout. With the skin all but gone it allowed us to get a real appreciation of the dental work on these fish. Looking more closely at these fierce fangs convinced me even further that lake trout must be closely related to the Taimen of Mongolia. The body shape, structure, head and teeth were all so similar it was the only obvious conclusion I could reach. This, of course, is based on absolutely no expert knowledge or scientific experience!



Whatever you do, don't touch their lips!! The lack of which exposes the serious teeth of this expired lake trout. Anything that goes in there isn't coming out in good shape.

After lunch we made our way to the spot, again a spot where a small stream flowed into the lake. Andrew and Andy fished one side while Mark and I crossed over the shallow river and fished the other side. We caught several reasonable trout before Andy hooked something decent on a soft plastic. From our side of the river I could see it was a char with its bright pinks flanks rolling around at the shore. When Andy held it up for Bill to photograph for him, I could see it was a very nice fish. Shortly afterwards Mark hooked a small char on fly. It was his first arctic char and obviously his first on fly as well as my first look at this most interesting fish. Although Mark's fish was quite pale it was still quite beautiful.

Once the fishing slowed down, Bill figured we had enough time for one more spot on the way home where there should be more char. It was a smaller spot than the others we had fished but as we approached the drop off where the stream flowed into the lake we could see flashes of orange in the water.



Andy's first big char of the trip on the first day. Even though these fish were quite pale, they are still pretty impressive!



Oh what a big mouth they have



The average size of the char impressed and surprised all of us.



This is the secret fly. Basically any colour works as long as it's pink.



Andy with his best char from day one taken on a soft plastic.



It may not look like much but the fish stacked up in these areas where creeks, streams and rivers flow into still water.

The hour or so we fished there produced a number of beautifully marked char to about 12 lb. Not as big as Andy's fish earlier in the day of about 15 lb but great fun. I got a nice one of about 10 on fly so I was stoked!! What a day and what a start, but it was only the start. It was a veritable fish fest. We wondered how good could this place get?

That evening after dinner (and an amazing dinner at that!) I went alone to the river mouth and caught a couple of nice lakereels on fly. It was a very contented night's sleep I had when I finally hit the pillow. The next morning over breakfast Fred ran us through the plan for the day. Our group would again travel with Bill but this time we would head north. The morning was cool but not too bad. However, we were warned that conditions would be far more severe as we went north. It was also expected to be quite windy too with strong northerlies coming straight off the Arctic. Just before jumping on the plane Dawn came down to the dock with several packets of chemical hand warmers. None of us really thought anything of it as it was cold but not freezing but gratefully put them in our pockets.



The Brit Bros hooked up at Hadley Bay. As always, the photos can't properly impress how horrendous the conditions were. The fish didn't care.

This would be our first day really chasing the char. As we flew north the weather got worse with rain squalls all around us and the wind sending shudders through the plane. Our first destination was Hadley Bay. As we approached, it was clear this location was different to the ones we fished on the first day.

This was a larger, fast flowing river that ran into a decent sized lake with a very obvious drop off. Bill told us it can be quite dangerous as the drop off where we would be fishing was very steep and deep and if you lost your footing whilst wading you would be in serious trouble. The plane was buffeted as we landed into the wind then taxi across the lake back towards the drop off. The wind was due north and very fresh blowing right into our faces and the temperature was clearly freezing compared to when

we departed the lodge in the morning. Icy finger tips struggled to rig rods. My plans to fly fish for the day were quite literally blown out the window. With such a ferocious headwind, I was no chance. As it turned out it was hard enough to throw a one ounce spoon into the wind.

Eventually we were all rigged and started to wade across the river towards the middle of the drop off. Andrew and Mark stopped a short way out and started fished and were immediately rewarded with a hook up. Andy and I pushed a bit further and deeper out and commenced fishing. We were standing well back from the drop off heeding Bill's warnings.



Andy trying to smile through the grimace of needle-like pain on any wet and exposed skin.



My first char at Hadley Bay. Landing and handling these fish in the temperatures we had was not something to look forward to.

Andy hooked a nice fish but was busted off on the drop off as the braid rubbed against the rocky shelf. I was bringing in a spoon and had a very large lake trout follow right up to my rod tip. As it turned and snaked away I flicked the spoon back out and jigged it back and forth in the current. It raced over and smashed the lure. It was a spectacular sight in such shallow, clear water. I held tight for a moment before the strength of such a big fish took it over the drop off into the deeper water. I fought it for a while and appeared to getting the upper hand. I

was walking it over to the side out of the main current when it too found a rock and cut me off.

Andy and I then struggled to re-rig with freezing, wet hands especially while watching Andrew and Mark consistently hooking into fish. But we finally managed and waded back out. This time it was char city.

For quite some time each cast produced a crunching strike followed but a powerful fight. The char were large and plentiful. We all caught fish pushing 20 pounds.



At North Camp the fishing was just as good as Hadley Bay, but the conditions were a lot more bearable.

None of them were the brilliant orange like the fish I saw in the photo but even these pale pink models were incredibly impressive to look at. We were all equally impressed by the fighting abilities of these brutes. Whilst they only occasionally jumped, they made up for it with surging runs and a dogged determination when trying to subdue them in the final stages.



As I said, the fishing was just as good!

The only downside for the day was the punishing temperature. Ice cold wind and water only just hovering above freezing were paralyzing. Re-rigging was extremely difficult and would have been impossible if not for the hand warmers that Dawn had given us before we departed.

It would have also been a brave man to take a toilet break in this bitterly desolate place. Mercifully, after a few hours of red hot fishing the bite did ease off somewhat (to a strike every

fourth or fifth cast!) and that was all the excuse we needed to take a break from the grueling cold. We retired to a base hut just up the hill that is occasionally used for fly out camps. It was a huge relief to be out of the wind having a hot coffee and sandwich.

After lunch we returned to the drop off to catch some more quality fish before Bill urged us to move to a different spot to finish the day. We packed up and took off for a short flight to North Camp. Again, this was much larger water than the first day and Bill told us this place held the promise of more big char.

The wind had dropped but was still strong when we started fishing. Success was instant as the first lures in the water were converted into bent rods. Again, the char were quality fish and we managed to catch a few fish that starting to get that rich red colour. I couldn't say how many fish we caught as a group other to say we caught so many we didn't bother counting.



North Camp produced immediate results. There were lots of double, triple and quadruple hook ups but this is one of the few we bothered to photograph.

The conditions that day were certainly fierce but we were nonetheless on a high when we returned to camp. A shower and delicious meal quickly made everyone forget about the weather and excitedly chatter about the days fishing. Fred and Doc were faring as well as us on their adventures so the atmosphere in the dining room was excellent. That night I had such a rare feeling of contentment that I decided not to fish at the creek mouth.

The next installment of this report will be on the amazing saltwater flats fishing for char, lake trout heaven and our biggest and brightest char for the trip.

May General Meeting presentation: Trout tactics by Pat Brennan



Don't get caught sitting all day drowning powerbaits this winter!

Come hear Pat Brennan offer some new (and old) tricks – soft plastics, blades, jigging, and new trolling techniques for trout this winter.



7.30 pm, 14 May 2013 at East Lakes Football Club, 3 Oxley St Griffith ACT

The Windamere Outing, 25-28 April 2013

By Anthony Heiser

After a two year hiatus, I was most looking forward to the Windamere Outing on 25-28 April 2013. The exploits of previous outings at Windamere have made etched themselves into CFC folklore while the size of fish on offer there are legendary.

We left Canberra in two convoys with Steve Bailey, Dave and Kyle Walton arriving at Cudgegong Waters Caravan Park just after lunch, while Greg and Rose Davis and I arrived later around 3 in the afternoon. After the six hour drive, Greg, Rose and I were happy to rig up our rods for the next day and enjoy the remainder of a very pleasant afternoon. Dave, Kyle and Steve, having already spent a couple of hours enjoying the afternoon, were more than ready to get out on the water. They spent the last few hours of the afternoon drowning worms but only had one inquiry.

Despite the rather basic kitchen facilities in our cabins, I managed to cook dinner for Greg, Rose and myself using Mum's pork meatball recipe. Fortunately, I did justice to Mum's recipe and Greg and Rose decided not to phone for pizza delivery from Mudgee.



Early morning fog over Lake Windamere

The evening got rather chilly which resulted in a foggy morning the next day. Some of the other anglers at Cudgegong Waters Caravan Park mentioned that on some mornings, the fog did not lift until 10.30 am. Fortunately, the fog began to clear by 7.30 am, revealing a glorious sunny autumn day.

Greg and Rose and I hopped in Greg's tinny (which struggled to get on the plane with my extra weight on the boat). Lake Windamere was about 56% full, compared with 20% in 2010, and our fishing spots from last time were 7 metres under water now. We made our way into the Limestone Creek arm but many spots that looked promising were riddled with submerged trees and bushes or filled with green slime.



Greg and Rose fishing the Limestone Creek Arm.

Eventually, we found a suitable bank on the southern bank and started fishing around 9.30 am. Not much happened in the first hour, in the second hour, a bell went off periodically on one of Rose's fishing rods until the culprit was captured and identified – a Murray Longneck Turtle.



2.17 kg Golden Perch

Finally, at 11.10 am my rod doubled over and I was hooked onto a 2.17 kg Yellow Belly which measured 48 cm on the brag mat. The thrill of landing my first Golden Perch for the fishing year meant getting a few photos of me and my capture.

Unfortunately, it was not looking too happy when I went to release it. Greg and I spent at least ten minutes

trying to revive the fish and eventually I had little choice but to consign it to the dinner table for Sunday night. My attempts to plea bargain for a lesser charge of involuntary

manslaughter fell on deaf ears and so I was labelled the 'fish murderer' for the rest of the day.



The 4.25 kg Golden Perch in the act of self-releasing.

Just after Greg and I finished haggling over the plea bargaining process, the same rod doubled over once more at 11.40 am. The fish weeded me as soon as I picked up my fishing rod.

Once I had lifted it out of the weeds, I knew it was a bigger fish and I thought I hooked a cod when I saw its dark bulky shape appear in the shallows. Instead, it was my PB Yellow Belly weighing 4.25 kg and measuring 58 cm on the brag mat.

I offered my spot to Rose hoping she could get the next Yellow Belly. We waited patiently until 1 pm but we had no more bites so we jumped in the boat and we threw lures near the rock wall and the nearby trees. We then banked fished the other side of the lake. Greg Davis hooked on what we think was a catfish but it weeded his 1 kg line which then popped.

We were surprised to find Dave, Kyle and Steve had already

returned to the cabins when we arrived back at the boat ramp. As it turned out, Steve was rather crook and didn't last beyond lunchtime. They trolled a few spots and fished off a couple of banks. Steve landed one turtle and hooked one catfish which snagged his line within a metre of the bank before busting off.

After eating a nice warm green curry Greg and Rose cooked up, Steve started a camp fire and Rose supplied Kyle with marshmallows which he promptly roasted and devoured.



My PB Golden Perch escapes from my grip



Left: Kyle roasting a marshmallow. Right: a marshmallow's view of the campfire.

The next morning, there was no blanket of fog, promising another glorious day ahead. Everyone enjoyed a sleep in till 7 am before making their way to the boat ramp around 9 am. Dave, Kyle, and Steve were first at the ramp, and managed to depart just in time.

Greg, Rose and I had to patiently sit and wait at the boat ramp while we watched what I could only describe as Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee trying to put their boat on their trailer. It would have been amusing to watch their comedy of errors if it were not for the fact they reversed their trailer on an angle almost blocking both lanes of the boat ramp. They appeared oblivious to the other cars lining up to access the ramp. Greg, finding his patience was fast running out on him, managed to squeeze his between their trailer and the edge of the boat ramp.



We fished a point on the western bank not far from the boat ramp from 10.30-11.40 am. The morning started off promising with perch hoofing the surface, but they suddenly became scarce the moment I opened my box of lures. With no fish and only one inquiry on Greg's Yabby, we moved on.



Left: Wedgetail eagle soaring over Lake Windamere. Right: Fishing the timbers (or trying to).

We motored to the opposite bank and tied the boat alongside the dead trees and drowned worms and yabbies for an hour for no bites. We then trolled lures to our next bank fishing spot within view of Cudgegong Waters Caravan Park. It was a quiet afternoon until Rose started getting inquiries on her fishing rod around 4 pm. Rose got three hits, busted off twice and landed one catfish weighing 1.85 kg and measuring 530 mm. In the dying minutes of the afternoon, I got two hook-ups but manage to get busted off both times.

Dave, Kyle and Steve had a better day. Again, they did a bit of trolling and bank fished a few spots. Steve was feeling better and proceeded to outfish the rest of us, landing four decent sized catfish. Kyle landed the second biggest Yellow Belly for the outing, weighing a solid 2.91 kg. Kyle hooked up a second time on a bigger Yellow Belly which managed to get away before it got to the landing net.

We decided to leave early on Sunday due to the long drive back to Canberra. Before leaving, I manage to do an early morning fish off the boat ramp and landed a 1.5 kg Yellow Belly right on 7 am. Dave, Kyle and Steve arrived ten minutes later to launch their boat for one last fish. However, no more fish were landed for the outing.



Rose with a 1.85 kg catfish

Top left, right and centre: Steve Bailey's three catfish. Bottom left and right: Kyle with his 2.91 kg Golden Perch





Yellow Belly off the boat ramp at 7 am.



Sunrise over Lake Windamere, 28 April 2013.



Dave, Kyle and Steve disappearing into the fog at Lake Windamere.

Burrinjuck Waters State Park Fishing Report – 26 April 2013

Water level current: 37.5%

Current discharge: 276 ml per day

Current inflow: 276 ml per day

Water visibility: up to 1.5 metres

Forecast Weather: Mostly sunny for the weekend, with a possible shower on Monday. Light winds will also be about on the weekend.

Full Moon: 26 April 2013 **New Moon:** 10 May 2013 **Water Temperature:** 20-22°C

The redfin are still on the bite. The best areas are the sandy banks along the Murrumbidgee Arm, off the bank along the park foreshore and the top end of Wade Island. Worms, small soft plastics, crank baits, mask vibes and blades are all working but I have found the lure or bait needs to be on the bottom. Fish around 35 centimetres are common.

We are still recovering from the weather which disrupted fishing over the weekend, but there are positive signs that catch rates are heading in the right direction and sizeable fish are being caught. With favourable weather predicted for the remainder of the week, we should see an increase in the capture of both the Murray cod and yellow belly, with redfin and carp remaining consistent.

Murray cod: the cod captures have slowed over the last week. The fish closed down last weekend as the low pressure system swept through. There were very few reports during the week but most fishermen were chasing the yellows and redfin.

Yellow belly: the catch rates did drop over the weekend as a result of the weather. However numbers have been improving, with reports of some big fish, up to 60cm, being landed. Bobbing shrimp and worms for the bait fishermen around the trees is still a great option. I managed a nice 50cm fish while bobbing a mask vibe on the bottom in 10 metres of water on Tuesday and another in a couple of metres of water near the edge while casting during the week. The big trees in the deep water are still producing in the Main Basin and Murrumbidgee arm. Scrubby has also been producing good numbers of fish for the bait fishermen. The weather looks like warming up again over the next week which should see a great weekend of fishing.

Carp: as per usual the carp are still being caught throughout the dam with worms a favourite.

Park news: there are plenty of camping areas available for this weekend with many people making a long weekend out of the Anzac day break. Sorry no cabins left. Painting works are to commence after the school holidays with the four cedar cottages to receive a new coat of paint, followed by the amenities blocks.



Dean Brind Manager

Burrinjuck Waters State Park

From the Editor

A great big thank you to Pat Brennan for allowing me to publish his two parter article and awesome photographs on his recent trip to the Arctic. If you want to learn more about his trout skills, he will be at the next Club meeting to talk about winter trout tactics.

After missing the opportunity to write up an outing report for Nowra and Narooma, I'm pleased to have finally written an outing report for Windamere. Many thanks to Dave Walton for supplying many of the photos for the outing report.

The photo comp entries over the last few months have been fantastic. We had Shane Jasprizza rubbing shoulders with the rich and famous (Ross Solley), Jamie Stanfield with an awesome Fiddler Ray, and some more great shots from the Armchair Angler, who was also the lucky winner for the March photo comp with his Red Gunard. I encourage everyone to send in your photos for the monthly photo competition for a chance to win a \$20 Tackle World voucher if you are the monthly winner.

The rules of the photo comp are:

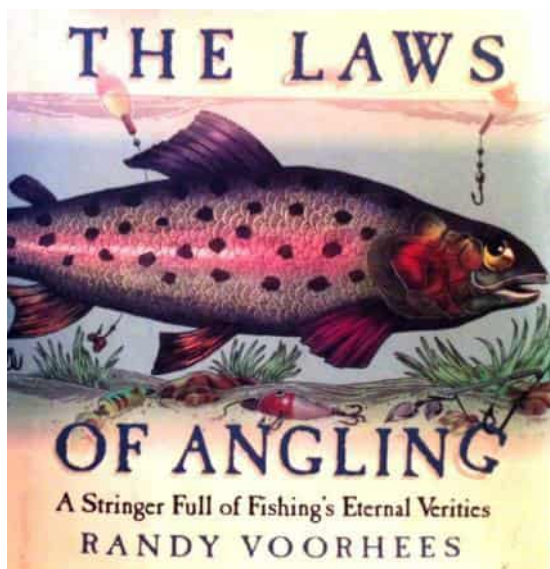
- Members can submit up to two photos per month
- The photo must either be taken by the member submitting the photo or a photo of the member
- No photo shopping or other digital enhancements are allowed

Preferably, photos should be 300 KB to 2 MB in size. Photos greater than 2 MB will need to be compressed if you are attempting to email them. You can contact me if you need help with compressing photos.

Also if you have some gear to sell, swap, wanted or barter then send through the details.

All of the above should be emailed to info@canberrafishos.com. Also a reminder for the lucky member number draw at each general meeting, you have to be there to win the cash or it JACKPOTS each week until a winning member is present.

Membership forms for 2012 – 2013 year are available on the website.



December Photo Competition



Kevin Spriggs – Shane Jasprizza talking to ABC's Ross Solly at the Queanbeyan Regatta



Jon Vogel – Armchair angler with big morwong



Jon Vogel: Armchair angler with red gunard



Shane Jasprizza – Jamie Stanfield with the World's smallest Salmon



Chris Head – 0.76 kg Jerra Redfin



Jamie Stanfield: 8.18 kg Banjo Ray on 2 kg line.

2012-2013 Canberra Fisherman's Club Outings & Meeting Calendar

<i>Outing Date</i>	<i>Outing</i>	<i>Monthly Meetings</i>
21st – 22nd July	Kiola/Ulladulla	10th
18th – 19th August	Buckenderra (Lake Eucumbene)	14th AGM
15th – 16th September	Kalkite (Lake Jindabyne)	11th
12th – 14th October	Talbingo Convention	9th Alan Hocking - All about your life Jackets Presentation
2nd – 4th November	Burrinjuck Convention	13th James Morgan AKA Kooka - Reading and fishing the beach
1st – 2nd December	Burrinjuck – Cod Opening Morven vs CFC inter club comp	11th Andrew McGovern – Fishing Canada Presentation
13th January	Carpathon	8th
26th – 28th January	Tuross	
15th-17th February	Nowra Convention St Georges Basin	12th
8th – 10th March	Narooma Convention	12th
25th – 28th April	Windamere	9th
18th – 19th May	Bega Brogo Tathra	14th Pat Brennan – Trout tactics
8th – 10th June	Narooma	11th
20th – 21st July	Kioloa / Ulladulla	9th

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SECRETARY	Luke Robbie	0434 997 969 (m)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY (Burrinjuck Chair)	Sarah Borman	0439 601 097 (m)
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OUTING LIAISON OFFICER	Kevin Spriggs	0418 864 760 (m)
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Committee	Patrick Luttrell	
Committee	Brian Stacy	

Membership & Contact Information

Membership Fees

	CFC	ANSA
Junior	\$5	\$4
Student	-	\$7
Senior	\$20	\$20
Family	\$30	\$25

**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**

**Chris Head
info@canberrafishos.com**

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For Sale

Large Pflueger tackle bag

Separates into two individual bags. The lower one has a number of "Plano" style boxes and a couple of side pockets, while the upper bag has a pocket with a lure folder and a larger section separated into four (4) sections. It's a deep maroon colour with a solid shoulder strap.

\$70 o.n.o.

Contact Luke on 0434-99 79 69 or netsurfau@gmail.com