

# Newsletter

## Volume 18 Issue 7

## February 2015

**Winner of the January 2015 Photo Competition**



**Jon Vogel – FNQ Barra on Fly**

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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

Hello all,

A lot has been happening over the past month preparing for the Carp Out. Now that all our permits are approved, final arrangements are in full swing and not looking like slowing down any time soon. Our printing has been completed thanks to CanPrint Communications so we are full steam ahead into promoting the Carp Out and getting entries in. Tidying up the online entry system within our website was another hurdle but now people can now register and complete payment quickly and easily online.

It's now time to spread the word and let all of your friends, family and fisho mates know the Carp Out is on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup> of March at Lennox Gardens Yarralumla and direct them to [www.canberra-carp-out.com](http://www.canberra-carp-out.com) for all of the info and updates as well as register online. Don't forget to mention that everyone who completes registration before the 22<sup>nd</sup> March will not only pay at a discounted price, they will also get a ticket into the early bird draw for \$500 cash and, get a free raffle ticket for the Hobie Kayak.

With only 4 weeks to the Carp Out (by the time you read this) we will definitely need a little help to make it happen. There will be heaps of posters, entry forms and raffle tickets available at the March general meeting so if you could come along and grab a pile, put up some posters, hand out some forms and sell a book of raffle tickets, your Club will appreciate the effort. Also, we will need a few volunteers for the fishing clinic on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March and a few more on the day of the Carp Out, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March. If you are available please put your name on the outing sheets for these. Don't forget, many hands make light work and a great event.

One of the great things about being a member of our club is access to at least 12 outings each year to some great fishing locations. As you all know, this creates camaraderie, forms long lasting friendships and provides a unique setting where valuable fishing information and stories are exchanged. For access to the locations we love, we usually need to book accommodation well in advance - sometime 12 months in advance. As an example we have the Olympic cabin booked at Narooma for the March outing, which sleeps 18 people comfortably and is in a top location for all types of fishing around Narooma. We have previously lost this booking but have just managed to get it back but we now unfortunately only have seven people attending, and at a greater cost than initially planned. This has become a bit of a disappointing trend over the last few outings with people putting their names down and not attending, sometimes without explanation that can add an undue stress to an otherwise good fishing weekend when we start to wonder if they have had an accident on the way. Also, by pulling out at the very last minute makes it very difficult for our outings officer to manage the accommodation and can also add to the costs of those attending. Please be aware that all members pulling out of an outing within up to 14 days prior to the commencement date will be expected to pay their full share of the accommodation. The club understands that there are some genuine emergencies where this cannot be helped but this should be the exception, not the rule and in these cases, it is still up to the discretion of the outings officer when it comes to payment. Please, let's all try to put in a little more forethought and commitment when putting our names down on the outings sheets.

Wishing tight line to the people that are attending the Narooma outing, I hear the kingies are biting! Currently the April outing at St Georges Basin is booked out so considering the above, if you think you can't make it to the April outing and your name is registered, let our outings officer know asap because other members are keen to attend the April outing if possible.

Two weeks before the Carp Out, I'll be heading to Tasmania for a week for work. I'll hopefully see a little bit of the countryside possibly even squeeze in a quick fishing session. Returning with only a week before our biggest event and hopefully lots of entries, the pressure will definitely be on. Sorry to keep harping on about this but, if you have any time to help out with any of the promotion leading up to the Carp Out and can lend a hand during the event, please let any of us know at the March general meeting!

Tight lines!  
Chris Head





# Secretary Report

January's foul weather saw the committee having to make the decision to postpone the traditional January outing, the Carpathon until February 8. This move unfortunately left some disappointed junior anglers who were braver than most of the seniors and keen to have a crack, rain, hail or shine. I think the future of our club is looking like it's in good hands. A few weeks later when Carpathon (Mark II) was in full swing, so was the sun. It was shining very hotly indeed, as I found out the hard way.

I'm not going to blame the weather as much as I'd like to for my own lack of success. This outing is notoriously difficult fishing. Its best known for being a top local family day out more than for its high capture rate. However, the few captures that were recorded made for some nice friendly competition in most categories.

The anglers to come out on top included brand new member, Lauren Flett who took out the Heaviest Carp – Ladies trophy. The encouragement award went to Zachary Zhao. Zac has a great hook up rate and we wish to encourage him to keep working on the conversion of his hook ups to captures.

Other winners include Pat Luttrell who won the Heaviest Carp – Men's trophy. The junior's trophy unfortunately went unclaimed which is always unfortunate.

We also had the kayak that is the 1<sup>st</sup> prize in the 2015 Fish Stocking Raffle with us set up behind the cycle path that attracted some interest, with many passers by asking about the kayak, who we are and what we were up to.

Overall the month has been good for signing up new members and has included some signups in 2 of the categories that I believe we should be targeting – junior and Female anglers.

I am hoping that the next half of the year is as successful for the club as the last half has been, or maybe even better.

And remember to slop.... Because take it from me just slipping, slapping, seeking and sliding is just not enough when you are around the water, you must slop too!!

Until next month!  
Tight lines.

Sarah



# Recorder's Report

G'day all,

The delayed Carpathon seems to have spurred a few people on this month. There were just short of 20 Carp added to the lists during January. This has caused a fair amount of position jostling in the fresh water length competition. On the salty stuff congratulations need to go to Brian Stacy, Chris Head and Greg Davis for tagging a striped Marlin each during the recent Bateman's Bay Tollgate classic.

On the ANSA scene the Canberra Fishermen's Club has now slipped to equal third with the South Sydney Amateur Fishing Association. We need some more good quality captures entered in the ANSA categories to boost the club's standings. There are good positions in the Freshwater lure and sport fishing divisions, and the saltwater lakes and estuaries division. One lightly contested division is that of land based game fishing. A couple of masters quality Australian Salmon off the beaches and we could swamp the division.

The Tuross flathead and bream competition is on next weekend and we have a few club members entering. Good luck to you all. Following that, Pirtek is also just around the corner so get your registration in to be in the running for some great prizes. Then we're on the home run for Carp Out itself.

You may also notice in the results below a new feature showing people who haven't qualified for possible awards yet due to some of the more esoteric rules in our by-laws. For example, the Most Versatile Angler award requires that the competitor have entered fish in at least three of the possible division and section combinations. Similarly, you need to attend at least two outings to be in the running for the points based competitions.

That's it from me for another month. Keep those capture forms rolling in!

John.



# Club Championship

## Open

Glen Malam	574
Chris Head	417
Anthony Heiser	408
Greg Davis	283
John Bosch	246

## Ladies

Karen Malam	228	
Angela Bandulet	214	(less than 2 outings attended)
Rose Davis	61	
Wendie Mcdonald	42	

## Junior

Kyle Walton	79	(less than 2 outings attended)
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## Land Based

Anthony Heiser	372
Paul Hoath	237
Karen Malam	228
Steve Bailey	220
Glen Malam	216

## Fresh Water

Glen Malam	401
Anthony Heiser	288
Paul Hoath	237
Karen Malam	228
Steve Bailey	220

## Salt Water

Chris Head	417
Colin Clark	241
Brian Stacy	206
Glen Malam	173
Greg Davis	120
Anthony Heiser	120

## Most Versatile Angler

Glen Malam	9	(less than 3 sections entered)
Anthony Heiser	7	(less than 3 sections entered)
Chris Head	6	(less than 3 sections entered)
Brian Stacy	4	(less than 3 sections entered)
Greg Davis	4	(less than 3 sections entered)

## Salt Water Length *(Tailor)*

Shane Jasprizza	780
Brian Stacy	430
Daniel Mcneice	420

## Fresh Water Length *(European Carp)*

Zane Zhao	11,370
Darren Hossack	9,905
Shane Jasprizza	9,415
John Vogel	8,155
Anthony Heiser	2,870

## Tagging Award

Greg Davis	120
Chris Head	120
Brian Stacy	120

## Board Fish

Australian Bonito	2.06 kg	Glen Malam
Australian Salmon	2.11 kg	Wendie Mcdonald
Black Bream	1.39 kg	Susan Mcneice
Brown Trout	2.28 kg	Karen Malam
Dusky Flathead	5.00 kg	Brian Stacy
European Carp	4.04 kg	John Vogel
Golden Perch	4.29 kg	Angela Bandulet
Morwong	2.42 kg	Coralie Teer
Mulloway	3.11 kg	Glen Malam
Murray Cod	6.65 kg	John Bosch
Nannygai	0.50 kg	Coralie Teer
Rainbow Trout	1.10 kg	Anthony Heiser
Redfin Perch	1.39 kg	John Bosch
Sand Flathead	0.71 kg	Colin Clark
Snapper	0.60 kg	Chris Head
Tailor	0.88 kg	Colin Clark
Yellowfin Bream	0.63 kg	Keith Smith



## Best Fish

### Fresh Water

#### Brown Trout

2.28kg on 1 kg

Karen Malam

### Blue Water

#### Snapper

.60kg on 1 kg

Chris Head

### Estuary

#### Dusky Flathead

1.20kg on 1 kg

Anthony Heiser

### Beach

#### Australian Salmon

1.90kg on 2 kg

Chris Head

## All Tackle Championship

### Open

Kevin Spriggs	15
Anthony Heiser	14
Glen Malam	13
Chris Head	13
Brian Stacy	11

### Junior

Connor Davis	4
Kyle Walton	4
Zachary Zhao	1
Jake Borman	1
Sebastian Davis	1
Lilly Mcneice	1
Justin Mcneice	1
Tyson Davis	1

## Soon to Expire Scales

91	Lemmon, Chris	CIL Digital	10 kg	7/04/2015
134	Mcneice, Daniel	Berkley	23 kg	7/04/2015

**When giving me scales to test please provide a new battery with them as well. Your scales have a better chance of passing if the battery is fresh, and it's worth replacing it once a year anyway!**

# News & Stories

## The Carpathon – 8 February 2015

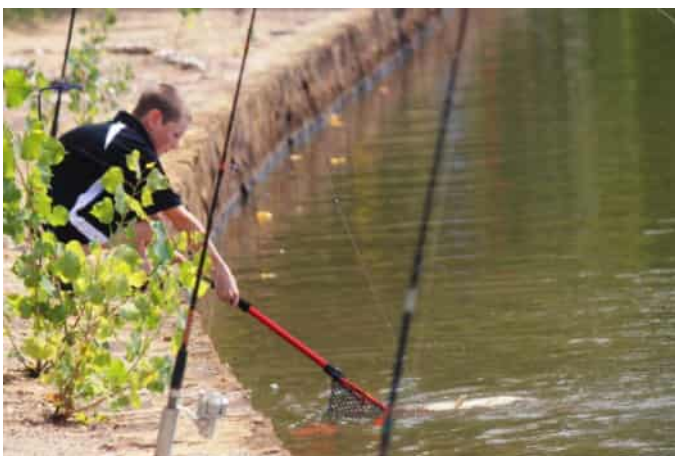
By Anthony Heiser



After a false start on 11 January 2015 and one pretender who sent an SMS that day to everyone in the Club claiming he won the Carpathon, the Club's annual Carpathon was finally held on 8 February 2015.

Delaying the Carpathon by a month seems to have done little to improve the number of fish weighed in... but at least the captures were shared among a few extra anglers compared to last year.

First to weigh in a fish was Bruce Murray with a 2.08 kg European Carp. Young Jake Borman made a valiant attempt to net Bruce's fish but his arms were not long enough to reach, and Chris Head then had to take over.



Jake Borman makes a valiant attempt to net Bruce's fish



Bruce holds up the first fish caught for the Carpathon.

Not long afterwards, Kevin was weighing in a 1.96 kg Carp, followed by new member Lauren Flett, and Rose Davis with a 2.79 kg and 2.43 kg Carp respectively. Meanwhile, young Zachary Zhao had hooked up several times during the day but those pesky carp kept throwing the hooks.





Kevin Spriggs with a 1.96 kg Carp



New member Lauren Flett with a 2.79 kg Carp

As lunchtime approached, we all started getting hungry so Chris Head and John Bosch fired up the BBQ and started sizzling the sausages for the hungry troops.



Rose Davis with a 2.43 kg Carp



While Chris and John slaved over the BBQ, our next captures came from Pat Luttrell with a 2.56 kg Carp and our Armchair Angler aka Jon Vogel with a 2.00 kg carp.

After that, Bruce Murray and Kevin Spriggs both landed their second fish, weighing 1.77 kg and 1.20 kg respectively.

Unfortunately, others including myself, found ourselves fishless by the time fishing closed at 3 pm. Chris and John quickly conferred over the results and, without further ado, Chris commenced the presentation.

After thanking everyone for their attendance and support, Chris announced that Pat Luttrell won the Men's Trophy and Lauren Flett won the Women's Trophy. The Junior's Trophy went unclaimed this year, but Zachary was awarded the Encouragement Award for his valiant efforts earlier that day.

For those who saw me try and exit Bowen Park after the Carpathon: for the record, my Corolla is an automatic and I was not kangaroo hopping. What happened was earlier that

week, the undercarriage of my Corolla must have hit something, resulting in damage that allowed the transmission fluid to leak out completely.

I'm happy to say that after spending \$675, my car runs like a dream and there was no need to ring Greg Davis and advise that I am in 'a spot of bother'.



Pat Luttrell with the winning 2.79 kg Carp



Jon Vogel with a 2.00 kg Carp



Pelican flies in for free food



Chris Head presenting Pat Luttrell with the Trophy for Champion Male



Chris Head presenting Lauren Flett with the Trophy for Champion Lady





Chris Head presenting Zachary Zhao with the Encouragement Award



The Pelican flies off empty handed (or empty-billed)

### Post-script

Just as the Carpathon had its prologue with Jon Vogel fishing on 11 January 2015 despite the event being postponed, our Armchair Angler also wrote the epilogue. Just like the prologue, Jon sent an SMS to just about everyone about his latest captures. However, this one warranted a drive back to Bowen Park (transmission problems notwithstanding).

Three hundred and sixteen days earlier, Glen Malam released five tagged Carp in preparation for the 2014 Canberra Carp-Out. Jon Vogel landed one of those Carp (tag #33) in the dying hours of the afternoon. Joseph Barbara caught Tagged Carp #32 on 7 April 2014, so that now leaves three of those five carp left to catch.

-AH-



Glen Malam with tagged Carp #33 on 29 March 2014 (left), and Jon Vogel with tagged Carp #33 on 8 February 2015.





Jon Vogel with what could have been a winning Carp, if he had caught it earlier in the day.

# Club General Meetings

I'd like to extend a big welcome to new members, visitors and of course, the true die-hard members of the Canberra Fisherman's Club. As you may or may not be aware we have our General Club meeting on the second Tuesday of every month from 7:30pm at the Eastlake Football Club, 3 Oxley St, Griffith. Eastlake FC have been a great supporter of our club allowing us to have our monthly meetings for many years in their meeting rooms with the only proviso that all our members become a member of their club for small fee and, that we tidy up the meeting room after we finish. Many members meet early at the club and have dinner and swap a few stories before the general meeting so to all members, please feel welcome to come join us, we don't bite although sometimes we wish the fish would.

Our meetings have a relaxed atmosphere in which we try to get through the general business quickly so we can then get into the good stuff. A guest speaker, a presentation, fishing reports and fishing disasters or funnies that members have been involved in over the month (which the rat might fine them for), you'll need to attend a meeting to find out what that is all about. We have a lucky member draw that will jackpot each month if the member is not at the meeting until it is claimed. Finally, we finish every meeting off with a raffle of great fishing gear that is supplied by our major sponsor Tackle World Canberra for a discount price.

For our February meeting we were lucky enough to have Peter from <http://u-make-em-softplastics.com.au/> come and show us how easy it is to make your own soft plastics and spinner baits. As we all learned, to



**U-Make-Em-Soft-Plastics**

make quality soft plastics at home at a fraction of the retail cost, you only need an old (or cheap) microwave that you no longer intend to cook food with. The fumes produced by the melted the plastic solution will render any microwave no longer fit for culinary use. You'll also need a Pyrex (or similar) jug and a starter kit that costs around 30 bucks. With these easy to obtain and relatively cheap tools, you will literally be on your way to making quality soft plastics at home, as we all found out. The starter kit contains enough solution to make around 40 plastics plus, of you make a mistake; the solution is reusable which means there's no risk in experimenting. There are many varieties of moulds, colours, tints, flecks and together with your own creativity, the sky's the limit in what you can produce at home to make fishing a little more affordable for those tight structure fishing trips. See how easy it is!







I think everybody who attended the February general meeting came away learning something from this presentation and looking around the room, most members looked pretty keen to give it a try at home. Even the soft plastic veterans of the club looked very impressed with the quality of the lures that we saw being before our eyes. Some of which were splitting images of their counterparts but able to be produced at around a tenth of the cost.

The lucky member draw that has been jackpotting at a rate of \$25 a month for a few months had grown to a very healthy sum of \$250 for the February general meeting. One lucky member was finally present to hear their name called for this prize. Much to the surprise of everyone present – especially the recipient, Jake Borman, our newest junior member, only with the club for less than a month, was attending the meeting to learn about making soft plastics with his dad. The look on his face was priceless and well worth it. Welcome to the Canberra Fishos and...

## ...CONGRATULATIONS

# JAKE BORMAN

...Now \$250 richer thanks to his keen interest in fishing and in the Canberra Fisherman's Club. Well-done mate, Congratulations from the Canberra Fisherman Club.



I have it on good authority Jake has now opened his own bank account with the winnings but don't be surprised if you soon see 'J B-Man' branded soft plastics hitting the shelves or eBay.

There's always something to learn or share at our general meetings. You can also register your interest in attending our monthly fishing trips because the best way to learn about fishing is definitely to get involved and wet a line with the other members. From the Canberra Fisherman's Club, we hope to see you at the next general meeting. March 10, at Eastlakes!-CH-

# The Nowra Outing – 20-22 February 2015

By Anthony Heiser



Six of us attended the Nowra Outing at Culburra Beach, with Bruce and Patricia Johnson, Kevin Spriggs and myself staying in the salubrious accommodation named 'Wangles' and Chris and Colin Clark staying closer to St Georges Basin.

Speaking personally, it was a terrible outing fishing wise and I caught fish but nothing eligible. However, Kevin did well targeting Black Bream on an unweighted pillie in a lagoon at Currarong and later a huge whiting at Culburra Beach on beach worm (caught by yours truly).

The Clark Brothers also recorded a few captures including a 0.46 kg Yellow Eye Mullet and some Tailor and Salmon. But other than that, the outing was very quiet and I'm blaming Cyclone Marcia... I'm sure that had something to do with it.

Once again, Kevin organised great accommodation at Nowra and the highlight of the weekend was the outing dinner. Thank you to Bruce Johnson who cooked the steaks and sausages, and to Chris and Colin's friend Lou who supplied some nice bottles of wine.

-AH-





At high tide, the waves were washing over the beach into the lagoon at Currarong



Waves washing into the little lagoon where Kevin caught his Black Bream.



The rewards of catching your own beach worms was a little underwhelming for me at Culburra Beach, although Kevin did land a monster whiting on those worms.



Chris Clark with a nice Yellow Eye Mullet off the beach



Thanks to Bruce Johnson, we ate well at Nowra



# Canberra Boat DayOff2 first Marlin

By Brian Stacy, Chris Head & Greg Davis

Canberra Fisherman's Club boat 'DayOff2' had yet to boat a Marlin so for this year's Tollgate Island Classic, the skipper Brian Stacy and crew Chris Head & Greg Davis had high expectations.

Drawing team number 26, Team DayOff2 awoke to day 1 of the classic with the weather being a bit grey and sleety and the seas proving to be a bit too sloppy for one of the smaller boats in the classic. We headed to the 60 Fathom mark; set the lure spread and headed NE towards the 80 fathom mark.



The morning was uneventful until we hit a nice blue stretch of water, suddenly we were greeted with a pod of dolphins as we watched them heading away from us we notice a few birds starting to work some bait and this is where the dolphins were headed. A seal also showed up so we headed over to the spot, as did a couple of other boats in the area. Soon after

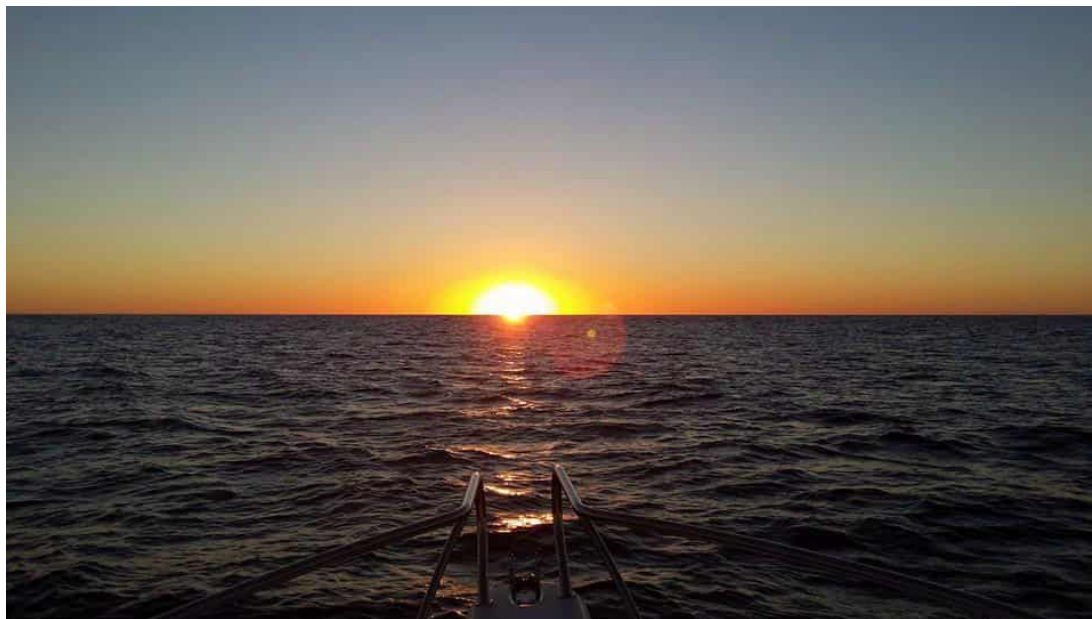


working the lures around the bait, the shotgun went off and then the outrigger. Our Skipper Brian while driving the boat started shouting out instructions. Crewmen, Greg and Chris grabbed a rod each but hesitated and changed to getting the other's gear out of the way. Their inexperience mixed with a good dose of adrenalin unfortunately saw their first two fish lost. After a quick team meeting on what we did wrong, the lures were back in the water with nerves tingling in expectation. Another strike on the outrigger and Greg grabbed the rod and applied the pressure while Chris and Brian got all the gear out of the way. The fun then truly started as the fish jumped all over the place. Greg was struggling as Brian and Chris tried to adjust the gimbal and harness to fit Greg while he was fighting. Through all of the commotion, this hook up turned out well and Greg landed his first Marlin, a Striped Marlin around 80kg that was tagged and released. The monkey was of the back for team DayOff2 with cheers and smiles all round - especially when we realised that it was all caught on the GoPro for viewing at a later date.

With the bait still around we jigged up a few and changed over from lures to trolling live baits. Day 1 ended with a 3-1-1 for DayOff2 and big smiles all round for the skipper and his crew.



Day 2 of the Tollgate Classic started with clear skies, smooth rolling seas and a great sunrise to greet us as we headed out to the productive GPS marks from Day 1 with the hope of a repeat performance.



We started off with lures and then found some bait so changed over to live baits. Time ticked by and after seeing a few Marlin showing interest, the outrigger suddenly went off and Brian was on. This fish was giving a good fight with high water jumps. Skipper, Brian showing his experience by shouting instructions to the boat driver to keep up with the fish during his fight. The crew were indeed learning as we went along. All ended well this time too and Brian landed a Striped Marlin around 80kg that was tagged and released. Hi fives all round

except the small matter that Chris now owes Brian a new set of de-hookers. The fish "knocked" them out of his hand when kicking as he went to take the hook out and the crew watched them slowly disappear into 80 fathoms of water.

Chris's turn next, hopefully. The crew jigged some more live baits and just to be sure he was ready, Chris even had the gimbal and harness on, adjusted and ready to go. The morning disappeared, as did the good weather and seas. The water started to get lumpy through the afternoon and Chris was starting to have doubts of catching his first Marlin. Until, the shotgun cracked and line started peeling off the reel. Action stations and Chris was on! The deck was cleared quickly as the crew's experience was growing but with the sea as lumpy as it was, Chris needed room to move around. This fish did not jump as much as the others, it played deep and really tested Chris and the crew in the conditions. Ten minutes turned to twenty,

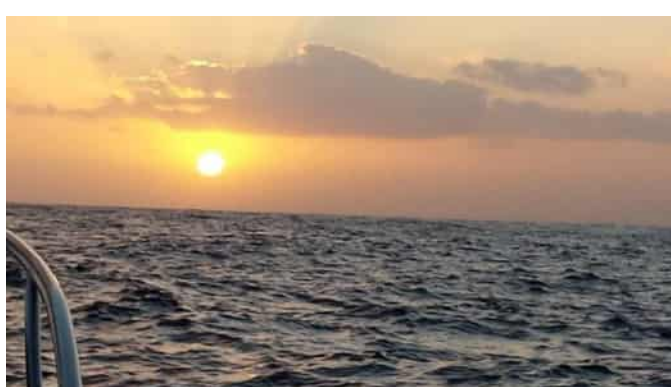
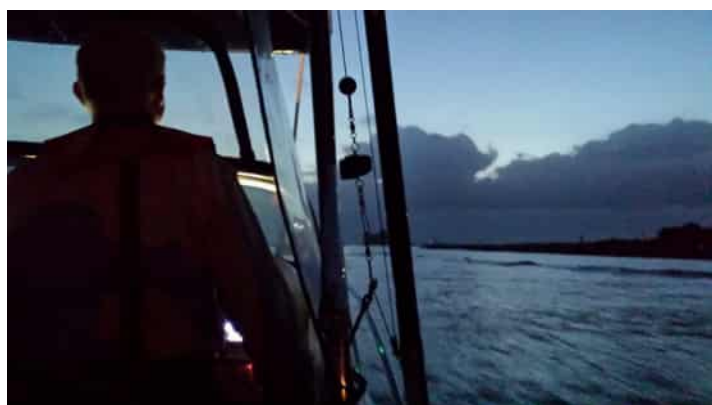
twenty to thirty and Chris was starting to really hurt. Finally around the 40-minute mark, the Marlin was beside the boat.

Another Striped Marlin pushing the 100kg mark was tagged and released and that made it one Marlin each for the crew, plenty of cheering and high fives.

Day 2 ended with for team DayOff 2 with a 2-2-2. Richie Benaud would be proud.



Day 3 Tollgates Classic a little overcast with slight seas. With all the crew having caught a marlin, Team DayOff2 was in high spirits. Ready to do it all again now we had restocked the tagging cards and another great sunrise greeted us as we headed out.



Unfortunately day three was not to be, thanks to Mr. Murphy we all agreed. With fish visibly swimming though our live baits teasing us, the team ended the third day with 5-1-0 without so much as a look. The marlin we could see were all lit up giving us plenty to see but nothing to catch – still, an unforgettable sight.

All in all, Team DayOff2 had a fantastic time out on the water in the 2015 Tollgate Islands Classic are very thankful for the fish we caught as well as the experienced we each gained thanks to our skipper, Brian.

Thanks from the captain and crew to the Batemans Bay Gamefishing Club for running a great event and we will be back next year to do it all again.

-CH-

## From the Editor

A couple of decent fish have been caught in the last month by yours truly I'm somewhat relieved to write - a few flatties a bit over the 40cm mark and one at in at 49cm... dammit! I hear they're good eating between the 40 and 50cm mark but I'm going to have to trust popular opinion and continue donating my catch to the dinner plates of those closest to me, or carry on putting them back to fight another day. Yes, being one of those weird blokes that loves fishing, spends ridiculous amounts of time and money on gear and fishing trips, is a member of a fishing club and casually writes about fishing on a semi-regular basis, people usually look me in the eyes of my non-existent second head when I let them know that I don't eat fish.

Speaking of chucking them back, I managed to spend a bit of time in and around Tomaga River this summer (in and out of the boat) and learned a few lessons about this fishery. Firstly, if your boat is anything bigger than a kayak, don't bother even thinking about getting it wet in anything less than a 70cm rising tide... yep, that 40cm low was exactly that. Our prop is now a little more buffed after that lesson.

Secondly, it's a little too scary to go prawning in. The stingrays are seriously plentiful and they range in size from around a modest 20cm to boasting a huge two-metre wingspan. Though the ones that can actually do the damage are quite placid in nature and are generally after whatever morsels the pelicans don't get to when the boats come in, risking stepping on one of these gentle (yet highly capable) giants while chasing the bottom of the piscatorial food chain would be slightly akin to attempting to grab honey from a hive that, for whatever reason just happens to be sitting on a pontoon in waist high water in the amazon river - the reward would be sweet but the risk of some form of Irwinesque injury simply outweighs the bounty at the end. Don't do it kids!

Thirdly, if you're happy to spend a few hours, with light gear, small hooks and a large beer (there's a nice ring to that), you'll find that it's a nursery to a seriously huge variety of fish! I caught and returned several undersized bream, drummer, flathead and even a cute little 20cm flounder. When I finally located their hidey-hole the bites were happening on every cast as soon as the bait hit the bottom. It was only when I downsized my hooks and kept the bait moving to help the striking, that I realised the river has more leatherjackets and mullets than a bad 80's movie.

For anyone that missed the February general meeting and is yet to check out our Facebook page, Peter from U-Make-Em-Soft-Plastics gave those who attended a great demonstration on how easy it is to make all types of soft plastic lures at home with very professional results. If you're interested in more information, ask any of the committee for Peter's details, or visit his website at [www.u-make-em-softplastics.com.au](http://www.u-make-em-softplastics.com.au).



Also from the February general meeting, congratulations must go out to our newest junior member, Jake Borman who won the badge draw jackpot at the February general meeting and scored himself a cool \$250 for simply being a member, being one of the 30 odd people to turn up to the meeting and then hit the one in 76 shot with the random number generator!



Simple statistical probability really and ask Jake, worth every dollar! That brings the badge draw back to its starting point of 25 bucks next meeting but don't let that deter you.

The March general meeting is arguably our most important meeting of the year. With a few weeks out of our biggest calendar event, there will be heaps of Carp Out promotional material to take home and distribute as well as books of raffle tickets to sell to your friends, family and colleagues. There will also be another sensational raffle as well as the usual anecdotes and fishing reports. The Replacement Rat will be at it again as Mick Jewry recovers from the complications that arose during his knee surgery (all the best Mick and catch you out there fishing soon).

If you carry on reading, you will notice the return of the '*Catch, Capture, Cuisine*' segment however under a different title – '*Catch, Clean, Cook*'. As promised, if they keep coming in, I'll keep putting them in the newsletter. I'm quietly hoping for a few before and after photos of flounder for the April newsletter... you'll have to read my CCC blurb now!

Speaking of stills, keep on submitting several sensational snapshots of sometimes somewhat sneakily suspended slimy and scaly specimens that make a suspicious struggle at supposed substantial sizing standardisation... What I really mean is... Photos... photo comp... keep up the good work! Speaking of which, nice work Jon Vogel for winning the January photo comp and scoring a twenty-buck Tackle World Canberra voucher with a nice FNQ Barra on fly.

Photos can be submitted directly onto our website or via email. If you have difficulties with either, let me know and I'll talk to my people who will contact their people, who will then call your people to let you know how to reach the website people, if you get my drift... that is around two knots in the south-east direction (nautical joke).

The rules of the photo comp are really simple:

- 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. If you're struggling and need help compressing the photos, feel free to contact me because I'm really good at palming this sort of thing off to Chris and Anthony.

If you submit your photos directly to the website you will not have to do any of the above as they will be automatically resized as they upload so this is clearly our preferred method. Don't blow a valve if you do not see your photo on the site straight away, all photos will need some minor human intervention to get to the right place with text you have supplied.

Lastly, if you have some gear to sell, swap, want to purchase, barter or are willing to swap a relative's kidney for, please send through the details.

All of the above should be emailed to [info@canberrafishos.com](mailto:info@canberrafishos.com).

To sign off this week,

### **Three Men And A Baby...**

... Is what you get when four men go fishing and one comes back not catching anything.

Catch you next fish!

Cheers

Dino



## Catch, Clean, Cook. (aka *Catch, Capture, Cuisine*)

It's back, in a somewhat slightly different iteration, thanks to the inspiration and drive behind this floundering article that has never actually featured a flounder (challenge right there) but has founded a following of fledgling photographers figuring how to flaunt their fabulous feasts from fish found in their favourite... um, locations.

I'm pretty sure Anthony's excellent article in the January Newsletter on how to prepare Flathead roe would have qualified for this segment if he had only remembered to submit pictures of the 'before' stage of the preparation.

Anyway, here's February's fun and foodie offering from The Armchair Angler.



The makings were a decent haul of flatties from the recent Tuross Outing, caught & cleaned by Keith & I and then excellently cooked by Keith for a Friday evening meal fit for a king ... but in this instance it was enjoyed by a couple of commoners - Keith, Lemmo, and The Armchair Angler.

Sensational work there from all of the above with the catch and indeed nice work with the photos and cooking. Jon, you have won yourself... an invitation to do it all again next month!

-DM-



# January Photo Competition



Alf S and his PB 90cm Googong Cod



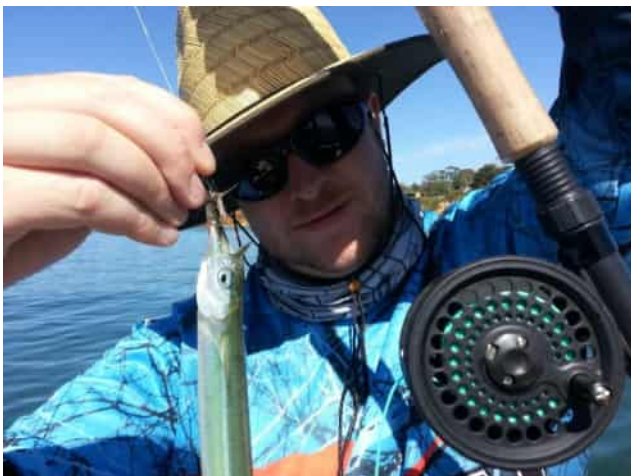
Paul H with his first Bidgee Cod



Jon V – Extremo with Arfa Goldie



Jon V and a nice FNQ Barra on fly



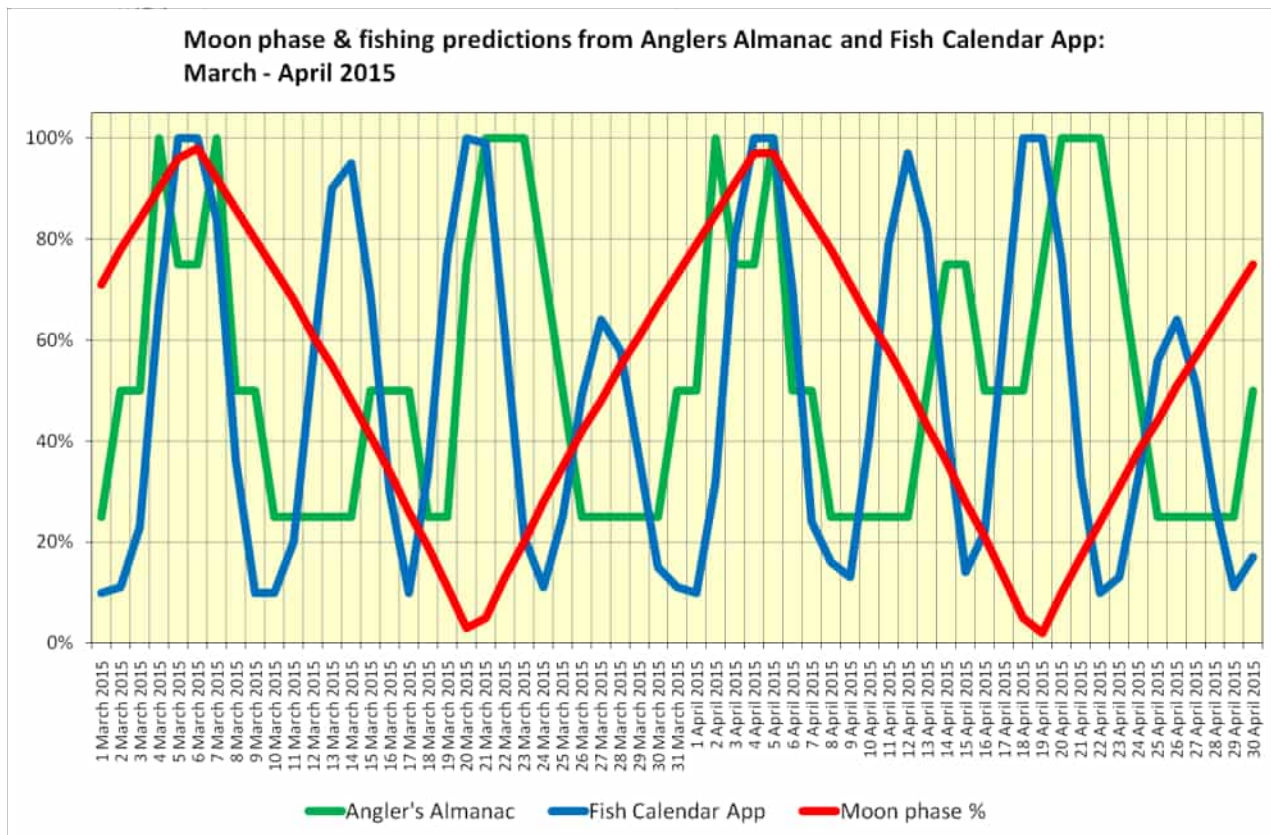
Paul H – First time on fly, first fish on fly



John B – 1.4 kilos of Freshwater Flathead (aka – very nice redfin!) from Googong

# FYI (Fish-Yielding Insomnia)

## Moon phases and other dates for March – April 2015



### Moon phases

Full Moon:	6 March 2015	4 April 2015
Last Quarter:	14 March 2015	12 April 2015
New Moon:	20 March 2015	19 April 2015
First Quarter:	27 March 2015	26 April 2015

### Public Holidays & other fishy events for your calendar

Canberra Day:	6 March 2015
Narooma Outing:	6-9 March 2015
Canberra Carp-Out:	29 March 2015
Good Friday:	3 April 2015
Easter Saturday:	4 April 2015
Easter Sunday:	5 April 2015
Daylight savings ends:	5 April 2015
Easter Monday:	6 April 2015
St Georges Basin Outing:	18-19 April 2015
ANZAC Day:	25 April 2015

## 2014-2015 Canberra Fisherman's Club Outings & Meeting Calendar

<i>Outing Date</i>	<i>Outing</i>	<i>Monthly Meetings</i>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Narooma Convention	<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>29<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Carp-Out	
<b>18<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	St Georges Basin	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Bega/Brogo	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Narooma	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Ulladulla	<b>14<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>15<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August</b>	Buckenderra	<b>11<sup>th</sup> – AGM</b>
<b>Watch</b>	<b>This</b>	<b>Space</b>



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