



Newsletter

Volume 18 Issue 10

May 2015

Winner of the April 2015 Photo Competition



Anthony Heiser – Black Bream on a surface lure

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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,

Even though the Club's fishing year is quickly coming a close, there is still plenty of time to get in some good fishing to get your name in the running for some of the competition standings.

June Queen's Birthday long weekend trip to Narooma is a great club outing that offers great opportunities for all types of fishing. The beaches fish well and generally a small group fish together for great results with salmon, tailor, bream, flathead, whiting and the occasional jewfish or shark. As we all know Wagonga Inlet at Narooma holds a great stock of bream, flathead and jewfish - enough to keep the estuary anglers happy from a boat or land. Finally if the seas are kind on the weekend and the Narooma Bar is behaving itself, the opportunity opens up for many of the boaters to head out to Montague Island and beyond to hopefully tackle some of the Kingfish or possibly a tuna or two. If the big fish aren't behaving, there's always some nice snapper, morwong and flathead to be taken with a bit of bottom bouncing. As you can see, plenty of opportunities so fingers crossed for all that are attending and hopefully we can swap some great fishing stories at the Saturday evening club barbecue.

Thanks to all the members that came to the May general meeting. We were able to decide locations and dates for the next year's monthly Club outings. They are up on the club website, at the bottom of this newsletter on our Facebook page and soon we will have them in the events calendar so you will once again be able to register interest through the website.

May is also the month that the committee reviews the rules for the annual Club competitions. There are a few changes this year – mainly clarification of existing rules to make the Club's by-laws a bit clearer for outing attendance and payments. Check out the Recorder's Report as well as News & Stories for the details. The committee also reviewed the eligible species for the total length competition for 2015/16. They will be Bream for saltwater and Yellow Belly for freshwater.

The next Club meeting will be held on 9th June (immediately after the Narooma outing). Don't forget the Lucky Membership Draw – the jackpot is now at \$125.

Also the ANSA NSW presentation night is on Saturday 29th August (details at the bottom of this newsletter and a number of our members are in the running, so a few of us will be heading up and attend the AGM, Delegates meeting and the presentation night in support. All members are welcome to join us and if you are interested in coming along, please let us know.

Finally, I hope you all get the chance to wet a line over the long weekend and if you do, remember to take some photos to submit into the monthly photo comp.

Until next time

Tight lines!
Chris Head



Secretary's Report

This year has gone by so fast. It is hard to believe we are almost half way through. I read somewhere earlier in the month that there is only 19 weekends until Christmas! This means the annual Burrinjuck Convention is around the corner and the hill climb has begun for the committee.

This month our club outing was held at Bega/Brogo/Tathra and was quite well attended considering how far away it is and that a lot of our members were out of town at other engagements. As I had never been that far down the coast before, I decided to attend and bring along my 12-year-old cousin for a weekend away from the gruelling daily grind that is year 6. We arrived in Tathra in the late afternoon on Friday and did a quick beach session that night for a donut, though I did learn that I am exceptionally unfit and that I am extremely averse to walking in sand. Saturday morning we went down to the Tathra Historic Wharf to soak some bait. It was so cold that I actually put on a jacket, but it quickly turned into a beautiful calm clear day. The weather didn't seem to make much difference but changing from squid to worms did and we then started catching many undersized flathead. Some were so small that the hooks were nearly bigger than their mouth. How they managed to gulp them down so far that I couldn't retrieve some of them is beyond me but there's a lesson in the predator instincts of the humble flathead. Even though the fish were small, it was still a very fun session, and most importantly to me, Jake had a ball. After lunch we headed to the beach beside the bridge for the afternoon to flick some soft plastics. I tried just about every plastic in my tackle box as well as a vibe but not even an enquiry.

We then had a great club BBQ dinner where we found out that all the action at the wharf happened during the afternoon session, and we missed it! With that news, we trooped off back down the wharf to try our luck again. A large group beside us had done very well and I suspect we could have also if we had been using Pillies instead of squid. We stayed out there till 10pm in the bitter cold for another small flattie for me, and a very small cod for Jake. I did see Tim catch a Southern Calamari, which was a really interesting experience. Sunday we started to drive home early as we decided to return via the coast, stopping to watch the small fish and pelicans at Narooma wharf and a quick fish and swim (for Jake) at the Moruya boat ramp. I decided to have a snack of mini m&m's and broke a tooth – unbelievable! ☹ We arrived home late Sunday night exhausted but very happy that we had had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend away. Jake is already using the phrase "next time we're here..." so I'd say it was a success.

Just a reminder that the AGM is coming up relatively soon and it is important that we have as many members attend this meeting as possible. August 11, please pencil it into your diary so you don't miss it.

Tight lines and good fishing for the coming month and remember...

Avoid eating M&M's are bad for your health and your bank account!!

Sarah.



Recorder's Report

G'day all,

Well, we're here again. From now until the presentation night I keep the competition standings to myself. A few people are within striking distance of the lead in some competitions so I encourage you to get out there get that winter fish. Now would be a good time to add a trout or two to the tally as there aren't many in the rankings so far.

At the last general meeting I announced that the NSW DPI has finally responded to ANSA's request for clarification on the new Murray Cod gap limits and what it means for fish caught in excess of 75 cm. The final wording is ...

If a fisher captures a prohibited size fish, or a fish taken in excess of the bag or possession limit, or seasonal closure or a fish that is otherwise not legally permissible to take under the Act, photographs may be taken at the immediate location where the fish is landed provided a device to photograph the fish is immediately available, DPI catch and release (best practice) guidelines are adhered to as much as possible and the fish is returned to its natural environment with the least possible injury as quickly as possible after photographs have been taken (see www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fisheries/recreational/info/catch-and-release for guidelines). Weighing of fish in these circumstances is not considered best practice and is not permitted for fish that are not permitted to be taken.

The gist of this is that any angler caught weighing a fish that is in excess of 75 cm in length in NSW is liable for prosecution. So, ANSA NSW will no longer be accepting capture forms for large Cod, including those caught in the ACT where the rules have not changed. Given that I am currently the only member with a Murray Cod capture in the ANSA competitions this year, that's not a huge loss.

With the tightening of the ability to weigh large fish and to give solo anglers more options we are proposing the introduction of a length board to our club by-laws. The full rules of the board are contained elsewhere in this newsletter along with the announcement of other changes to the by-laws.

My personal belief is that we will see more fish receive gap limits in the future so introducing more length based competitions can only be a good thing. There is already a maximum size limit on Dusky Flathead in Victoria and my gut feeling is that NSW will eventually follow suit.

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

John.



Club Championship

Open

Anthony Heiser	691	
Glen Malam	574	
Chris Head	417	
Shane Jasprizza	416	(less than 2 outings attended)
Chris Clark	345	

Ladies

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

Junior

Kyle Walton	329	(less than 2 outings attended)
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Land Based

Anthony Heiser	548	
Shane Jasprizza	416	(less than 2 outings attended)
Chris Clark	345	
Kyle Walton	250	(less than 2 outings attended)
Colin Clark	249	

Fresh Water

Glen Malam	401	
Anthony Heiser	288	
Kyle Walton	250	(less than 2 outings attended)
Paul Hoath	237	
Karen Malam	228	

Salt Water

Chris Head	417	
Anthony Heiser	403	
Chris Clark	345	
Colin Clark	249	
Shane Jasprizza	222	(less than 2 outings attended)

Most Versatile Angler

Anthony Heiser	13	
Glen Malam	9	(less than 3 sections entered)
Shane Jasprizza	6	
Chris Head	6	(less than 3 sections entered)
Chris Clark	5	

Salt Water Length (Tailor)

Chris Clark	2170
Shane Jasprizza	780
Brian Stacy	430
Daniel McNeice	420
Colin Clark	400

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	5.00 kg	Kyle Walton
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	0.75 kg	Chris Clark
Snapper	1.46 kg	Zane Zhao
Tailor	1.11 kg	Chris Clark
Yellowfin Bream	0.63 kg	Keith Smith
Yellowtail Kingfish	3.10 kg	Zane Zhao

Best Fish

Fresh Water

European Carp

5.00kg on 2 kg
Kyle Walton

Blue Water

Snapper

.60kg on 1 kg
Chris Head

Blue Water

Sweep

.40kg on 1 kg
Chris Head

Estuary

Dusky Flathead

1.20kg on 1 kg

Anthony Heiser

Rocks

Tailor

.91kg on 1 kg

Chris Clark

Beach

Australian Salmon

1.85kg on 1 kg

Shane Jasprizza

All Tackle Championship

Open

Anthony Heiser	26
Kevin Spriggs	21
Brian Stacy	19
John Vogel	18
Chris Clark	14

Junior

Connor Davis	5
Kyle Walton	4
Zachary Zhao	2
Lilly Mcneice	2
Justin Mcneice	2

Soon to Expire Scales

75	Clark, Chris	Rapala Digital	25 kg	3/06/2015
80	Davis, Greg	Rapala Digital	25 kg	3/06/2015
118	Magassy, Albert	Rapala Digital	25 kg	15/06/2015
135	Clark, Colin	Rapala	8 kg	3/06/2015
136	Vogel, John	Berkley	23 kg	3/06/2015
137	Vogel, John	Rapala	8 kg	3/06/2015
138	Liong, Carl	Okuma	25 kg	15/06/2015

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

By-Laws Change

The committee reviewed the by-laws during our last meeting and the club by-laws have been updated and will take effect from 1 July 2015.

Paragraph 8(f) (cancellation of attendance at outings) now reads as follows:

Where a member or guest for whom accommodation is booked on their behalf by the Outings Liaison Officer are liable to pay for their share of the accommodation. However, the Outings Liaison Officer has discretion to accept cancellations by members or guests if reasonable notice is given prior to the outing or reasonable grounds are given for the cancellation.

Length Board Fish have been introduced into the 12 month competition in paragraphs 17(i) and 17(j)

- (i) At the Annual Presentation Night a certificate will be presented to all members who have captured a Length Board fish. A Length Board fish is the longest fish (regardless of the breaking strain of the line used) of any species from the list of eligible species in ANSA Rulebook. A Length Board fish may be captured at any time or place within Australia or Australian Territorial waters or by any means by any member provided that such capture was made within the ANSA fishing rules. Where ties exist, two or more certificates will be presented. To become the new Length Board fish a new capture must exceed the current length board fish by at least 5 mm.
- (j) At the Annual Presentation Night a certificate will be presented to all members who have captured an All Time Length Board Fish. An All Time Length Board Fish is the longest fish (regardless of the breaking strain of the line used) of any species from the list of eligible species in the ANSA Rulebook in the recorded history of the Club. An All Time Length Board fish may be captured at any time or place within Australia or Australian Territorial waters or by any means by any member provided that such capture was made within the ANSA fishing rules. Where ties exist, two or more certificates will be presented. To become the new All Time Length Board fish a new capture must exceed the current record holding fish by at least 5 mm.

As a transitional arrangement, All Time Length Board will be populated with the longest captures of the last 4 years (the 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15) so that there isn't a glut of certificates at the 2016 presentation night. Those initial populating entries will not be eligible for a certificate as they were caught before the board existed.

Change of Total Length Award species

The committee has changed the Total Length Award species for the 2015-16 fishing year. The species (minimum legal lengths apply) for the coming year will be:

Bream* in the Saltwater section

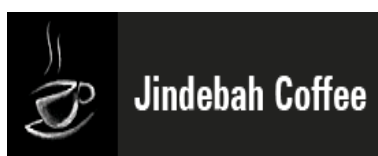
Yellow Belly in the Freshwater section



*includes all Tarwhine and all species of Bream caught in Australian Territorial Waters. Note, this does not include freshwater species such as Bony Bream.

How many metres can you catch?

Thank you again for helping with the Canberra Carp-Out!



The Lake Lyell Convention: 15-17 May 2015

By Anthony Heiser



Lake Lyell after sunset on Saturday, 16 May 2015.

I decided it was time to give the Lake Lyell Convention a go when I discovered I was leading the ANSA Convention Circuit by four points. Although I had never been to Lake Lyell and generally prefer accommodation with four walls, roof and warm bed, this was the last Convention for 2014-15 and the opportunity to compete for a first place ranking was too good an opportunity to pass up.

So on Thursday, 14 May 2015, I dusted off my swag (last used at the Kalkite Outing in 2009), hastily purchased some modest camping supplies and set off in my Corolla for Lake Lyell. Thanks to the Sea Bees Fishing Club, I found that an unpowered campsite had already been booked for me at the Lake Lyell Recreation Park.

Fishing commenced midday Friday and I decided to fish near an old boat ramp near the mouth of the Cox's Creek Arm. However, with the lake at 100%, I discovered the water had reached the tree line leaving only a few fishable spots. But those spots looked very promising so I spent the afternoon fly fishing and later bait fishing. But it turned out to be a rather quiet day.

I tried a different bay on Saturday spent the day alternating between fly fishing and bait fishing. I watched some of the other competitors reel in a few nice trout in their boats so I knew I was in the right spot.

I met Anthony and Ian from Penrith as they arrived and set up camp near where I was bait fishing. They caught a few pan sized rainbows while I got bust off by something fast and unseen on chunky cheese. This encouraged me to camp overnight there.

The fishing went a little quiet during



Saturday's camping spot.

the evening but we enjoyed a few drinks around the camp fire and Anthony and Ian treated me to some awesome chicken wings cooked in some brand of super charged American chilli sauce and drizzled in ranch dressing.



Star trail at Lake Lyell on Saturday night.

The next morning, I finally caught my one and only trout while making a cup of tea and breakfast. It measured a whopping 29 centimetres but at least I finally had a capture on the board. This gave me all the encouragement I needed to spend the rest of the morning fly fishing. I did get one last hit on my bait rod as I was packing up but it spat the hook as I was winding it in.

Fishing ended at midday and the Sea Bees Fishing Club hosted an

awesome BBQ lunch prior to the presentation. Once the presentation got underway, it was announced that 108 people attend the competition, with 75 fish caught: 69 trout and 6 bass.

Unfortunately, my only capture did not make the top five in any of the categories (thus bruising my short-lived ANSA Convention Circuit campaign). Those fish which did make into the top five were in the 40 plus and 50 plus centimetre ranges. There were some great fish caught and congratulations to everyone who submitted captures over the weekend.

I found this outing one of the most relaxing weekends in a long time – I surprised myself as I had never considered spending an entire weekend in accommodation that did not involve four walls and a roof. Some of it might have been attributed to the bottle of scotch I slowly consumed (albeit responsibly!) by the campfire on Saturday night. Many thanks to Sea Bees Fishing Club for organising such an enjoyable Convention and booking my camping spot. If anyone is thinking of going up to Lake Lyell for next year's Convention, I'm planning to go again and I'm sure I can make room for a couple of spots in my new Mitsubishi Triton.

-AH-



Success! A 29 cm Rainbow Trout for Competitor # 29.

Fishing and the 'Great Charter': a condensed history of our fishing laws

By Anthony Heiser



King Edward I (1272–1307) *Inspeximus* issue of Magna Carta, 1297. Parliament House Art Collection, Department of Parliamentary Services, Canberra ACT. You can view the Magna Carta of 1297 at Parliament House.



William Wallace, Edinburgh Castle. King Edward I was prompted to patch up his differences with the English nobility and reissue the Magna Carta in 1297 following William Wallace's victory at Sterling Bridge earlier that year.

This year marks the eight hundredth anniversary of the Magna Carta (or 'the Great Charter'). The Magna Carta was mainly concerned with the medieval relationship between the king and his barons. However, it represented one of the first attempts to reign in the king's arbitrary exercise of powers and establish a rule of law. It also shaped fishing laws in England and the Commonwealth for several centuries.

Eight hundred years ago, an unpopular King John of England faced revolt from his unhappy barons. In return for their renewed oaths of allegiance, King John signed the Magna Carta on 15 June 1215. The Magna Carta protected church rights, protected barons from illegal imprisonment, promised access to swift justice, and limited feudal payments to the king. King John very quickly broke his promises under the Magna Carta and civil war broke out.

After King John's death, the barons patched up their differences with nine-year-old King Henry III, who then reissued the Magna Carta in 1216. He reissued it again in 1217 following a failed French attempt to conquer England, and again in 1225 to raise taxes to defend Gascony from the French.

King Henry III died in 1272 and was succeeded by his son King Edward I (aka Edward Longshanks, that villainous King in *Braveheart*). Those who have seen *Braveheart* would know

Edward I had a war mongering habit. Conquering Scotland required lots of taxes and soldiers, and Edward I now faced revolt from the English nobility. However, William Wallace's defeat of the English at Stirling Bridge on 11 September 1297 motivated Edward I and the English nobility to renew the Magna Carta on 12 October 1297. King Edward I then launched another invasion of Scotland and defeated William Wallace's forces at the Battle of Falkirk.

The Magna Carta of 1297 still remains in the English statute books, although, only three clauses remain in force today. However, it also shaped fishing laws in England for the next 800 years, which we inherited when the English landed in Botany Bay in 1788.

Our fishery laws probably originated in the pre-Norman era when England was divided into small kingdoms and each king owned the land over which he ruled and laid claim to the game and fish within his kingdom. It was accepted customary practice of the King's subjects to fish since ancient times. However, as owner of the seas and tidal rivers in his kingdom, the king could also grant private fisheries to his favoured subjects. Creating a private fishery over a particular waterway meant others could no longer fish there.

In addition, the use of fish-weirs by the King and others created navigation hazards and threatened fish stocks. Fish-weirs were obstructions placed in tidal waters or in rivers to direct fish into traps such as salmon as they swam upstream or eels as they swam downstream. Some fish-weirs were 700 feet in length.

One of the barons' demands was the removal of fish-weirs (including those belonging to the King). Accordingly, clause 33 of the Magna Carta of 1215 (and repeated as clause 23 in the Magna Carta of 1297) reads as follows:

'All fish-weirs for the future shall be removed altogether from the Thames and Medway and all throughout England, except upon the seashore.'

In addition to banning fish weirs, the English courts ruled that the Magna Carta also ended the King's right to grant private fisheries over tidal waters. It is unclear how the Magna Carta did this but, since then, *'private fisheries in tidal waters can only be granted by an Act of Parliament'*. As a result, ordinary citizens could continue the ancient customary practice of fishing in tidal waters.

The English Courts eventually recognised this ancient custom as the Public Right of Fishing.

The nature of this right was later developed in the writings of imminent jurists such as Henry of Bracton (1210-1268), Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), and Sir Matthew Hale (1609-1676) as well as a number of English Court decisions.



The king lost the right to grant private fisheries under the Magna Carta. Since then, *'private fisheries in tidal waters can only be created by an Act of Parliament'*.



Local authorities and businesses that own or control facilities such as piers and jetties usually allow fishing to take place although they don't have to. At the Southport Sand pumping Jetty, the Gold Coast Waterways Authority charges a modest fee to fish off the jetty. The fee does not relate to the Public Right of Fishing but to the use of the jetty. Those fees are used to install and maintain fish cleaning facilities and rubbish bins. In addition, anglers must meet certain standards of behaviour on the jetty and can only use two rods each.

According to Sir Matthew Hale in *De Jure Maris*, the right to fish arose because the king owned seas and seabed, thus giving the '*common people of England... a liberty of fishing in the sea, creeks or arms thereof*'. Other key points about the Public Right of Fishing include:

- It only exists in tidal waters as the right arises from of the king's ownership of the seas and seabed.
- It is secondary to other Common Law rights, including the Public Right of Navigation.
- There are no limits on how many fish can be caught or what fishing methods can be employed.
- It does not give people the right to launch a boat or land a fish on private property (such a private jetty or private beach).
- Local authorities can impose restrictions or fees on anglers wishing to access public places such as jetties, boat ramps and beaches – such restrictions or fees relate to the use of public property, rather than the right to go fishing.
- It can only be regulated or extinguished by an Act of Parliament.

The Public Right of Fishing does not exist in non-tidal waters as whoever owns the land on which those waters sit also owns the fishing rights. Under Common Law, the public can only fish non-tidal waters if it is located on Crown Land. In New South Wales, section 38 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* changed the law to allow fishing in rivers and streams running through private property. However, you still need the land owner's permission to enter the property. In addition, section 38 does not apply to lakes and dams on private property.

In *Harper v Minister for Sea Fisheries* in 1989, the High Court accepted that the Public Right of Fishing became part of Australian law when the British landed in Botany Bay in 1788.



The Public Right of Fishing does not exist in the Australian Capital Territory as it only applies to tidal waterways. Fishing is only permitted where waterways are located on Crown Land.

This had practical implications as the High Court later denied recognition of exclusive native title rights in the waters around Croker Island in 2001. While the High Court recognised the native title rights of the Traditional Owners of Croker Island in the surrounding waters, this could not exclude others from exercising the Public Rights of Fishing and Navigation in those waters.

The High Court also pointed out in *Harper v Minister for Sea Fisheries* that, '*like all rights, the Public Right*

of Fishing can be extinguished or regulated by an Act of Parliament'. Anglers are only too aware of the numerous regulations governing recreational fishing in Australia. Anglers should regard this as a necessary evil to prevent overfishing given the Public Right of Fishing does not say how many fish and what size fish you can catch, or how you catch them.



Anthony with a nice Rainbow Trout caught at Caddigat Lakes at Dixieland. The Caddigat Lakes are the largest network of private trout lakes on a single property on mainland Australia. Fishing rights on lakes and dams on private property belong to the property owner.



Anyone wishing to fish private lakes and dams must seek permission of the property owner. The owner might impose conditions on that permission. At Dixieland for example, anglers are required to pay a fee and only fly-fishing on a catch and release basis is allowed. (See www.dixielandflyfishing.com.au for further information).

The Parliament can extinguish the Public Right of Fishing in one of two ways. Firstly, it can pass legislation stating that the Public Right of Fishing is extinguished. Fortunately, our politicians have never attempted this. Secondly, Parliament can pass legislation that regulates fishing to such an extent that it leaves no room for the operation of the Public Right of Fishing. For example, The High Court found in the *Blue Mud Bay Case* in 2008 that the *Fisheries Act* (NT) completely regulated fishing in the Northern Territory thus extinguishing the Public Right of Fishing. As a result, permission is now required for anglers fishing waters overlying Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory.

The Public Right of Fishing never existed in the Australian Capital Territory as the right only exists in tidal waters. We can assume it still exists in New South Wales, albeit in a heavily regulated form. Section 3 of the *Fisheries Management Act 1994* (NSW) states that the object of the Act is to conserve, develop and share NSW's fisheries resources (suggesting it is only regulating some aspects of fishing in NSW). It also contains the following note:

At common law, the public has a right to fish in the sea, the arms of the sea and in the tidal reaches of all rivers and estuaries. The public has no common law right to fish in non-tidal waters - the right to fish in those waters belongs to the owner of the soil under those waters. However, the public may fish in non-tidal waters if the soil under those waters is Crown land. In the case of non-tidal waters in rivers and creeks, section 38 declares that the public has a right to fish despite the private ownership of the bed of the river or creek. However, the right to fish in tidal or non-tidal waters is subject to any restriction imposed by this Act.

While this note does not actually form part of the Fisheries Management Act, it supports the interpretation that the Act has not extinguished the Public Right of Fishing.

Nevertheless, let's never take for granted our right to wet a line in New South Wales. Ordinary men and women probably enjoyed right to catch fish in the seas and tidal rivers prior to 1215, but it was the Magna Carta that protected this right by banning new fish-weirs and stopping the King carving up fisheries among his favoured subjects. In time, the English Courts recognised the existence of the Public Right of Fishing and, 800 years later, we still enjoy the right to wet a line.

I would like to thank Sam Pollock, Acting Registrar, Parliament House Art Collection, Department of Parliamentary Services, for providing permission to use the photo of the Magna Carta and Paula Waring, Assistant Director, Research Section, Department of the Senate, for his assistance in obtaining that permission. You can view that copy of the Magna Carta at Parliament House and more information is at www.magnacarta.senate.gov.au/.

This article is not an academic dissertation so there is no citation of sources. However, these you can obtain from Attachment A of the [Club's submission to the NSW Upper House Inquiry into Recreational Fishing](#), which I used as the basis for this article. That in turn was based from a dissertation I wrote in 2002 as part of my Masters of Law. I also relied on an article by [Warwick Gullett from the University of Wollongong](#) to fill in some gaps in my knowledge of the Public Right of Fishing. Finally, some of the colourful historic references came from that ever-reliable source, Wikipedia!

The other Great Charter!



A great day's fishing on board *Nitro*, run by Charter Fish Narooma, 8 March 2014.

Nominations are open...

Nominations are now open for next year's committee and for the 2014/15 club distinctions. They're also open for the CFC spoof trophies... you know what I'm talking about. All you need to do is use the forms below and submit them at the next general meeting on June 9.

I :

Signature :

Nominate for the position of *(Circle as appropriate)*

President

Vice President

Secretary

Assistant Secretary

Treasurer

Committee Position

Nominated by :

Seconded by :

I :

Would like to nominate :

for the award of *(Circle as appropriate):*

Club Member of the Year

Most Meritorious Capture

Most Improved Angler

Most Improved Junior

Gold Badge*

Life Membership**

Brief details of why this person is being nominated:

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Nominated by :

Seconded by :

(* Awarded at discretion of Committee)

(**Requires resolution at Special General Meeting)

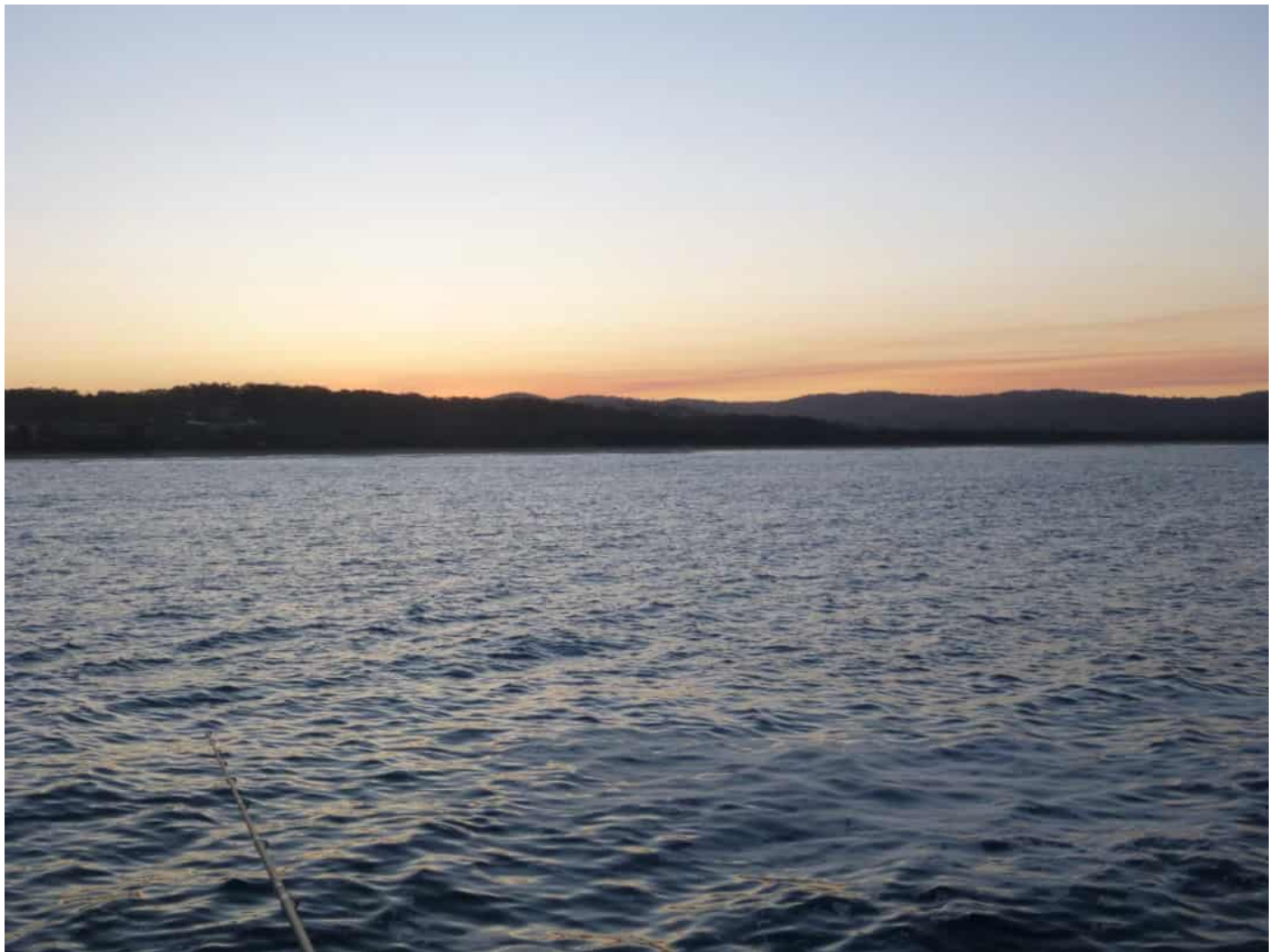
Club Outings

Bega/Brogo/Tathra – 16-17 May 2015

By Kevin Spriggs

After a few rained-out weekends for the Canberra Fishos, the weather finally held out and apart from an overcast Saturday morning, the weather was great and just about everyone there caught fish. It was also a nice easy drive down Brown Mountain with a couple of rest stops due to road works.

Most people fished the Bega River for mixed results as was reflected in the capture sheet. Sarah, Jake and new club member Tim Lui fished the Tathra wharf with Tim catching a nice 45cm Tailor and a fat salmon off the Tathra Warf in between the pickers munching on his gang hooked pilchards on Saturday. I picked up an under size flatty off the wharf and went to remove the hook and noticed that the one sticking out the front of it's mouth was a set of gang hooks and my hook was further down it's throat. I was able to remove the gang hooks but had to leave mine in it when it was released. Other people fishing the wharf seemed to be mainly catching small Tailor and Salmon.



Evening View from Tathra Wharf 1

Bruce Johnson and Eustice braved the two-metre swell on Saturday morning only for Bruce to find out that his new brand of seasick tablets were not too effective. Still, the experience pulled him through the swells to hook up to a good feed of flatties.

I launched my kayak from the bridge over the Bega River and latched on to a school of Tailor picking up a 30 and 35cm. There was a bit of a wind blowing down the river and together with the outgoing tide made it a bit of a pain every time I stopped. I did find what I believe is a nice jewie spot as I was doing a slow troll and got hit by something that took about 100 meters of line in about 5 seconds. I didn't even get a look at the fish, as it was gone when I finally applied some pressure on it. On pulling in the lure I found a treble hook had broken off, so after some cursing I put that lure away and made a mental note to replace both sets of trebles that night. With Anthony missing out on this outing because he was doing the club proud at the ANSA NSW Lyell Lake Comp, I was trying to make the most of the opportunity and was trying to catch up to him in the Club All Tackle Points comp so, I also fished the wharf in the afternoon and again after the BBQ but unfortunately for no keepers. I did get a nice 66cm on Sunday out of the river that was quite heavy, I'd guess a couple of kilos. Only one All Tackle Point behind now so back out there but that was my last landed fish for the outing.

Steve Baily fished with Chris Lemmon and they had a good and bad day on Saturday. The bad leaving Steve to joke about Chris' netting, especially on a good size fish on 1kg line. By the end of the night I believe the fish was up to 90cm as the story was retold. It's now a job for the Rat to seek the full story. Good, mixed bag of flattys, Bream and an Australian Salmon



On Sunday Steve got a 78 and 79cm flatty out of the river along with a beam each.

The Walton's were down in force and had a good Saturday with everybody except for the Guide catching a fish even though he said it was a little bit cramped with all 4 on board.

Keith S, Tom H and Jon V each ended up with a mixed bag, Jon the only one catching anything on Saturday with an Australian Salmon, Bream and a flatty. Then Sunday it was all Keith and Tom with 4 bream and a flathead between them and Jon scoring a donut.

- KS -

From the Editor

Another day, another dollar and this month has seen another donut for yours truly. Perhaps it may be time to buy another set of scales because since purchasing the last set, they have hardly been used and I've hardly seen any water. Call me superstitious, but the correlation is a little uncanny... Actually, I don't think I've ever caught as few fish as I have since joining the Fishing Club... What's with that? Every top end trip prior, would see me catching at least a dozen Barra in the 60 - 80 cm range, I'd never had a donut off a beach and the Moruya break wall was the failsafe option that would always guarantee something. Now, I seriously can't remember the last time I caught so much as a cold. No pressure Narooma but I'm counting on you to break this vicious cycle and get me something to put on the scales and in a photo. Speaking of scales... and well-placed segues, there are a few scales that are soon to expire so if you're one of the owners of said scales and for some reason you happen to be reading the best editorial Canberra has to offer, were then side-tracked for some reason into reading this, then you should probably see John Bosch with your scales so he can do his magic.

There seem to be quite a lot happening this month in the Canberra Fisherman's Club with a change in by-laws, a change in total length comps, a few new trips on the calendar, new length base laws around Murray Cod (see Recorder's Report for more detail) and potentially a new committee... well at least the option to vote in a new committee, which I'm seriously doubting will happen. This current committee is doing such a great job that you'd be madder than Mad Jack McMad, the winner of last year's 'Mr. Madman' competition, to want to make any changes now. That being said, the nomination forms are in the 'News & Stories' section of this newsletter so if you're interested, we will be accepting nominations at the next general meeting. That also includes nominations for any of the bigger awards the club has to offer.

Keeping the photo comp plug brief, nice work Anthony proving that it pays to always keep your smartphone handy... preferably in a waterproof casing. Everyone else, keep up the good work and keep those photos coming in. Photos can be submitted directly onto our website or via email. If you have difficulties with either, let me know and I'll help make it happen.

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, or any of the committee members.

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 a little 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 hoping to give away because you broke it, please send through the details.

All of the above should be emailed to info@canberrafishos.com.

'Three quarters of the earth is water and one quarter is land. Clearly we should be spending triple the amount of time fishing than we do mowing the lawn.'
Catch you next fish!
Dino



Catch, Clean, Cook. (aka *Fish 2 Dish*)

For the 'Before' part of this one, we cut forward a year from the last month's 'Before' pic with this plate sized snapper caught from the Nitro charter from the April '15 Narooma outing.



What's on the plate is the snapper I got to take home from the March Narooma Nitro Charter. As you can see, it was kept whole which I think improves presentation. Preparation was extremely simple ... slash & salt, lightly dust in corn flour with a sprinkle of five spice & garlic powder, then shallow fry in rice oil until crispy. Serve with steamed vegetables, ginger & tamarind dipping sauce, and an ice cold IPA. YUM!



Poached Snapper

Make sure you have...

- 10-15 lettuce leaves
- 1.25 kg whole snapper, gutted and scaled
- 2 onions, thinly sliced
- 1 lemon, thinly sliced
- 2/3 cup (170 ml) fish stock
- 2/3 cup (170ml) white wine
- 12 whole black peppercorns
- 1 bay leaf
- 155 g unsalted butter, chopped
- 1 tablespoon lime juice

When you do, you'll need to...

- Preheat the oven or BBQ to 180°C.
- Place the lettuce in a large bowl, cover with boiling water to soften, then drain well and refresh in cold water.
- Fill the cavity of the fish with one of the sliced onions and the lemon. Wrap the fish completely in the lettuce leaves and place into a deep-sided baking dish.
- Pour the stock and wine over the fish.
- Add the remaining onion, peppercorns and bay leaf to the dish, then dot the lettuce with 30 g of the butter.
- Cover tightly with foil and bake for 30 minutes, or until the flesh flakes in the thickest part when tested with a fork.
- Remove the fish from the dish and lettuce wrapping, transfer to a serving dish and keep warm.
- Strain the liquid into a saucepan, then boil for about 10 minutes, or until reduced by half.
- Remove from the heat and whisk in the remaining butter a little at a time, whisking constantly until the mixture has thickened slightly. You can use a bit of cornflour to help thicken the sauce.
- Stir in the lime juice and season, to taste, with salt and pepper. Serve on the side.
- For this dish, I garnished it with dill and served with Bok Choy and Asparagus.

April Photo Competition



Jon V as the Masked Flatty Fisho



Jon V as the Unmasked Flatty Fisho



Lily M – Made mum get up early to go Fishing and catch the sunrise



Lily M – Braving the cold



Anthony H – PB Bream at 38.5 cm and weighing 0.8 kg caught on a surface lure



Paul H – Surface BOOF!
93 cm PB Murray Cod

This month's winner...



Anthony H once again proving that the smartphone is now a tackle box essential with a very nice pic of a Black Bream that smashed a surface lure and earned it's place on the cover of this issue while putting another twenty buck TWC voucher in Anthony's pocket.

Nice work everyone with the photo submissions this month and thank you once again to



for keeping this photo competition alive for so long and for stocking such good stuff!

St George Sportfishing Club
is pleased to announce that we will be hosting the



ANSA NSW
Presentation Night
AGM & Delegates Meeting



SATURDAY 29th AUGUST 2015

Venue



Tickets

Tickets for the Presentation Dinner

\$40.00 per Adult

\$20.00 per Child under 16

Seating for Dinner at 6:30pm

Dinner at 7:00pm



Menu

- Roast sirloin
- Roast pork
- Lamb
- Roast potatoes, peas, carrots and mushrooms
- Cauliflower
- Grilled
- Bread
- Chef's selection of Petite deserts
- Coffee & Tea

Bookings

For further enquiries, or to register your attendance and payment, please contact;

Peter Logan

(M) 0411 886 457 (E) plogan2001@gmail.com

Please make cheques payable to:

St George Sportfishing Club,
P.O. BOX 162 Riverwood. 2210

RSVP: 14th AUGUST 2015

For those of you that are either mildly interested, chapping at the bit, or are potential recipients of awards, here's a bit more info on accommodation for the evening/weekend/however long your boss will allow you time off.

Accommodation Near the Club

There is accommodation available for a range of budgets all within a 10 to 30 minute drive or taxi ride from the club

Sutherland Motel
Crn Princess Hwy & Aldgate Street, Sutherland
[P] 9545 1000
www.sutherlandmotel.com

Abcot Inn
410 Princess Hwy, Sylvania Heights
[P] 9544 6444
www.abcot.com.au

Metro Motor Inn
The Kingsway & Jackson Ave, Miranda
[P] 9525 7577

Engadine Motor Inn
1229 Princess Hwy, Engadine
[P] 9520 8166
www.engadinemotorinn.com.au

Cronulla Motor Inn
85 The Kingsway, Cronulla
[P] 9523 6800

Heathcote Inn Hotel
Princes Highway, Heathcote
[P] 9520 0481

Heathcote Tourist Park
Princess Highway Heathcote
[P] 9520 8816

Woronora Caravan Park
1 Menai Road Woronora
[P] 9521 2291

2015-2016 Canberra Fisherman's Club Outings & Meeting Calendar

<i>Outing Date</i>	<i>Outing</i>	<i>Monthly Meetings</i>
6th – 8th June	Narooma	9th
11th – 12th July	Ulladulla	14th
15th – 16th August	Buckenderra	11th – AGM
TBA September	Presentation Night	N/a
12th - 13th September	Kalkite (Lake Jindabyne)	8th
17th – 18th October	Nelligen/Batemans Bay	13th
6th 8th November	Burrinjuck Convention	10th
5th – 6th December	Burrinjuck – Cod Opening Morven vs CFC inter club comp	8th
10th January	Carpathon	2016
23rd – 24th January	Tuross	12th
13th - 14th February	Talbingo	9th
11th – 14th March	Narooma Convention	8th
3rd April	Carp-Out	
9th – 10th April	St Georges Basin	12th
7th – 8th May	Kalkite	10th
11th – 13th June	Narooma	14th
2nd – 3rd July	Ulladulla	12th

Canberra Fisherman's Club Sponsors 2014-2015

Sponsor	Contact Person	Contact
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VIKING LURES	Alex Hickson	02 6352 3938
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WETSPOT WATERSPORTS	Scott Hunter	www.wetspot.net.au

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General correspondence should be directed to info@canberrafishos.com

Membership & Contact Information

Membership Fees

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

All Correspondence to

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PO Box 325
Civic Square, ACT 2608

Articles for inclusion in the
CFC Newsletter to be
Forwarded to the Editor

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editor@canberrafishos.com

CFC Life Members

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