

Eaglestone Rock

Climbing in Thailand

Climbing in Kalymnos

Climbing in the Grampians

National Climbing News

International World Cup

World Climbing Achievements

western climber

Issue 007 - October 2011

Free Newsletter for



CAWA members

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Vacant Position * position available *

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Web Site <http://www.climberswa.asn.au>



Visit the website for more CAWA information, keep up to date with our activities and send us your feedback.

*** GET INVOLVED IN CAWA ***

Various committee positions are still available. Please contact cawa@climberswa.asn.au if you would like to get involved and contribute to the WA climbing community.



Cover photo: Brian Tan showing off his flexibility on Fidget Gene (23) at Eaglestone Rock. Read the CAWA trip report on Page 9 (Photo: Peter Thomas).

C • A • W • A

The Climbers Association of Western Australia was formed in 1968 and Incorporated in August 1979. CAWA's purpose is to promote and develop climbing, especially in WA, and to promote and protect the interests of climbers in WA.

The management of CAWA is conducted by a committee. Any matters which should be brought to the attention of the committee should be addressed to the CAWA secretary.

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western climber

The official publication of the Climbers Association of Western Australia Inc. Issue 007 - October 2011

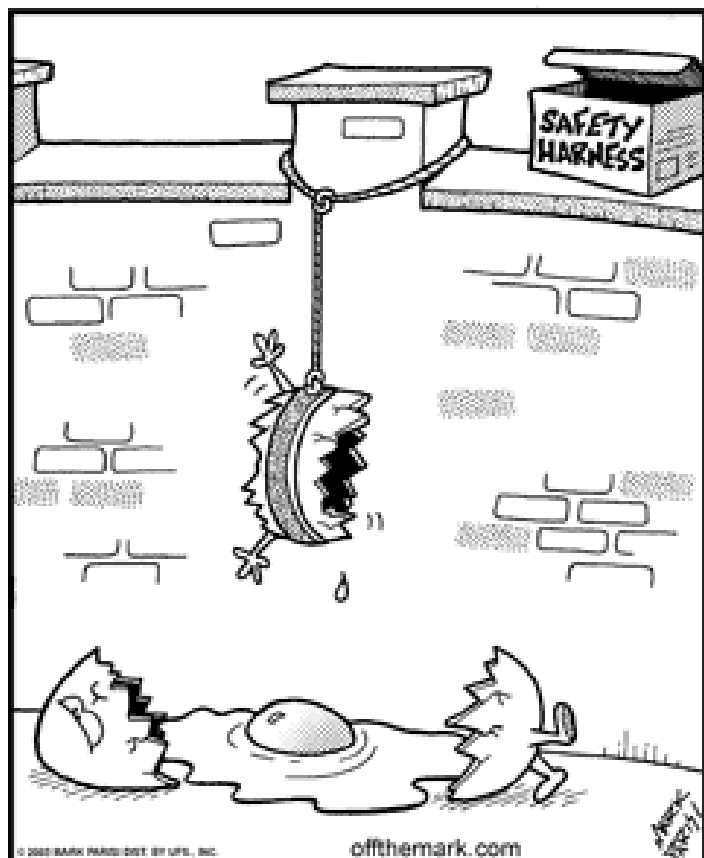
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Message from your CAWA Committee...



Have a Crackin' Summer!!!

western climber is the newsletter of CAWA and relies on contributions members. All member submissions are welcome for inclusion and can be sent via e-mail to editor@climberswa.asn.au by the deadlines below.

Issue 008	Submissions by	16 January 2012
February 2012		
Issue 009	Submissions by	16 April 2012
May 2012		
Issue 010	Submissions by	16 July 2012
August 2012		
Issue 011	Submissions by	16 October 2012
November 2012		

We welcome all climbing related material - trip reports, new routes, technical, safety, equipment, book / DVD reviews, crag information and climbing gossip. We love photos of places and people having fun climbing!

CAWA CALENDAR

October

11 October **Gym Crash**
The Hangout, 6:00pm

12 October **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome

28 October to 30 October **Trip—Mt Frankland**
TC: Kylie West

November

9 November **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome

17 November **Gym Crash**
Rockface, 6:00pm

19 November to 20 November **Trip—Wilyabrup**
TC: David Wauge

23 November **Social Night**
Radical Reels, 7:00pm

December

04 December **CAWA Xmas Party**
Blackwall Reach

13 December **Gym Crash**
The Hangout, 6:00pm

14 December **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome

26 December to 02 January **Trip—Albany**
TC: To be Confirmed

January

11 January **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome

12 January **Gym Crash**
Rockface, 6:00pm

February

14 February **Gym Crash**
The Hangout, 6:00pm

15 February **CAWA AGM**
(TBC) Rosie O'Gradys, 7:00pm

CAWA will endeavour to keep to the planned dates stated in the calendar above. CAWA members should check the CAWA website for the most up-to-date calendar; as dates may have changed since time of printing this news.

CAWA Calendar of Events on the Web
<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/events>

GYM LOCATIONS

Rockface 63B John Street, Northbridge 9328 5998
Website: www.rockface.com.au

The Hangout 12 White Street, Bayswater 9371 9939
Website: www.thehangout.com.au

NOTICES

Weekend Climbing

CAWA are looking for trip co-ordinators for weekend climbs around Perth. Please e-mail CAWA if you are willing to participate as a trip co-ordinator to encourage others to head outdoors!

Email Updates

CAWA predominantly uses e-mail to communicate with its members. To receive the regular e-mail notices, please provide an e-mail address with your membership. If you are not receiving any notices, please contact us to check whether your e-mail is recorded correctly. If you do not have access to e-mail, please let us know so that we can make alternative arrangements.

ED'S CORNER

Rising from the nether regions of obscurity.... the Western Climber is once again ALIVE. And we shall write. And we shall post. And we shall publish. And we shall once again take the prime position on every WA climber's coffee tables (OK, we do know where most climbers do their reading... but...).

This is YOUR magazine — we want to fill it with lots of stories, photographs, articles, notices.... Not only from WA, but from around Australia and from your overseas experiences. So... Please write in, share and encourage others to do so.

All submissions are welcome—news, gossip, stories, achievements, failures (!)... Not everyone gets to climb outdoors or go on amazing overseas trips, so we would love to read about them!

We hope that next edition will be a super-bumper issue as we open up the forum for commercial and international support. Watch this space!!!

Climb On!!!

Allison Low & Kate Swain

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



A big welcome from your CAWA President! I hope everyone has kept up their training during winter and with the warmer weather, are coming out of hibernation. I am now hearing more of ...“so where are you climbing this weekend??”

CAWA had a slow start to the year with the transition from a Committee with many experienced climbers and years of committee experience, to a brand new committee with varying experience. However, I am pleased to say that CAWA is on track again for another exciting year. Attendance to our events has been encouraging and membership indicators show CAWA is delivering what the climbing fraternity in Western Australia is expecting.

There have already been three CAWA trips to Peak Charles, Kalbarri and Eaglestone Rock. This month we head to Mt Frankland and in November we have the favourite, Willyabrup. We are firming up dates for Albany / West Cape Howe trip and the end of the year CAWA Xmas Party... so keep tuned to the CAWA Events Page on the website.

Currently Kenny, Brian, Scotty and the rest of the Yosemite Assault 2011 team are making their way up one of the great walls of El Cap, Yosemite, USA while Kate and her group are working the cliffs of the Verdon Gorge in France. Dena and Phil have just returned from summer climbing in Europe and Ross has also returned from mountaineering in the European Alps. We all look forward to everyone's safe return and stories of how they fared. More news on their trip presentations soon.

Also in November we have the RADICAL REELS Film Festival evening at the State Theatre of WA, at which the CAWA block booking for Wed 23rd Nov at 7pm was SOLD OUT in record time. However I expect you can still get seats for the 23rd and 24th if you check with BOCS or the Theatre. We will ensure a greater “block” availability for next year.

There is lots of interest in the new City Summit Rock Climbing Centre opening in Malaga, hopefully before the end of this year. CAWA has been invited by the proprietors Damian and Nigel to attend a CAWA Open Night when they are ready for business, so keep a watch out for their progress.

So we have a busy time to the end of this year and into next. The AGM (yes I know...) will be in February 2012 and I encourage any of you who have some interest to support this great Association and to nominate for a Committee position for next year in whatever capacity you may like. The more Committee support CAWA gets, the more varied and valuable experience we have and this helps us provide a strong portfolio of events and initiatives for the next year.

My thanks to our great Committee. In particular, Kylie has worked tirelessly on the Memberships and Finances, Allison and Kate have worked hard to bring Western Climber back to life – you can see just how great it is, now online, quarterly and free... and Brenton and Kat have supported the trips we've had with strong logistic capability. “Super” Dave is a hit at the Gym Crashes – or is it because he's the Pizza Man as well ?? And our thanks to Janice for assisting us with auditing our finances and Robin who coordinated our first trip this year.

But to bring what we love to do into perspective, sadly we hear of another tragic fatality in our North West in the Karijini National Park this month. We are reminded of a fatality earlier this year in Statham's Quarry. In the sport of rock climbing there are no “easy outs”. As climbers, we need to be continually active in assessing the risk in what we do. We need to make rational decisions to ensure we minimise that risk for us individually, and for our fellow climbers around us. We need not to be afraid to speak up and share with others where we see risk. At the close of the day, we all want to go home to our families and friends, safe in the knowledge that we assessed the risk and made the right decisions.

Safe climbing,

Tony Brebner. CAWA President

OFF BELAY

News and gossip from the vertical world. Send in some gossip about someone or we'll make something up about you (seriously... we will...).

KATE & CO EUROPEAN ADVENTURE 2011

Kate, Neil, Rich and Mark have left "sunny" Perth and are off gallivanting on a climbing trip in Europe. Their month long adventure will bring them to the areas of Verdon, Chateaufort, Buoux, Gorge du Tarn and Fontainebleau. That's all I'm going to write because jealousy is over taking my emotions. I'm sure Kate & Co will return with amazing photos and stories to share.



YOSEMITE ASSAULT 2011

Kene, Brian, Scotty and Remi are venturing out to climb the Southwest face of "The Nose" on El Capitan in Yosemite, USA. The climb, which takes 31 pitches to complete, is a pinnacle of any climber's career. We wish Kenny & Co. all the best in their preparation and look forward to hearing their stories and wow-ing at their photographs on their safe return.



BIG CAWA PLANS FOR 2012

Apart from the fact that CAWA rocks (no pun intended!), there are huge plans for 2012. It will be a bigger, better and busier year. Some ideas include social nights (quiz nights, film nights, etc.), a photographic competition that will eventuate in a CAWA calendar, a technical climbing master class (looking for volunteers!) and the first WA state climbing competition. What else would you like to see happen in 2012??? Let your committee know! We would love to hear from our members and find out your ideas. So please write in or post on the CAWA forum.

ACCESS

By Allison Low

Take care when venturing outdoors following the heavy rains we have experienced over the winter period. Whilst the quarries remain open for climbing, we all have to be mindful of the risks involved.

Firstly, the rain has transformed some of the walls into "waterfalls" - well, as close as WA will ever get to a waterfall. Climbing on wet rock is particularly dangerous as getting a grip on things may be difficult.

Secondly, rain causes erosion, leaving loose rock that could become dislodged when pressure is applied. The other day, I was climbing at Mountain Quarry when a climber shouted "Rock, Rock, Rock...." from the second pitch of Finger Lickin' Awful. A large rock was dislodged and fell to the ground, its size easily capable of causing in serious injury. Thankfully, no one was injured. Everyone at the quarry that day was shaken by the event.

The climber was highly experienced and had successfully completed that climb many times before. He knew the route, holds and gear placements. It is likely that the hold had become loose following the heavy rains. Climb safe. Use your head. Be aware of dangers that could be present and changed conditions due to the weather.

CAWA would appreciate being updated on crag access issues, as the committee is unable to cover all the crags in Perth and Western Australia.

Please post any areas of concern to the CAWA forum on the website so that other climbers are aware of any changes to access or climbing conditions in WA.
<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/forum>

You can also e-mail the editor of Western Climber as an alternative to posting on the forum.
editor@climberswa.asn.au

UPDATE ON CITY SUMMIT



First peek of City Summit with owners Nigel Ray and Damien Hall taking a break.

Another world class climbing gym comes to Perth!!!

Opening later this year in Malaga, City Summit is to be Perth's largest climbing centre. With 10m high walls and long traversing climbs, 40 top roping stations, 3 lead climbing areas, a 5m high bouldering cave, functions area, cafe and pro shop; City Summit goes beyond being just an indoor climbing gym.

Owners Nigel Ray and Damien Hall have been climbing for 5 years and have long dreamed of opening the centre. Designed by climbers for climbers, City Summit will cater to all levels of skills, from beginners to experienced climbers and will offer a large number and variety of climbs at each grade.

The climbing walls have been custom designed by Nigel and Damien using a sophisticated 3D modeling program which provided strong free form design and creativity. This deliberate decision in custom design, avoiding existing climbing gym manufactures, is clearly reflected in the unique and ambitious climbing wall construction.

One of the key objectives in design was to provide a challenging and rewarding climbing outcome that was unique to Perth which includes a replica of "Dreamcatcher" in Squamish, first ascended by Chris Sharma.

The complex design of the walls has caused its fair share of headaches, including a complete re-think of engineering. However, delivery of the first frame to City Summit is due on the 22 of September and will see a 6 to 9 week construction period. An official opening day will be announced closer to date with a special closed event for CAWA members.

The centre goes beyond providing unique climbing walls; as passionate climbers Nigel and Damien have a strong desire to see the profile and participation of rock climbing increase in Western Australia. A number of incentives will be established at City Summit to help promote the sport of climbing including free skills and technique course, free lead

training courses, climbing competitions and a strong social networking environment. City Summit also will offer its Members' Reward program where frequency of visits are recorded and discounts offered across all areas of the centre, the higher the visits the higher discounts.

Overlooking the climbing floor is the café, Summit Lounge. Here climbers can relax on the mezzanine in a comfortable setting with friends after a huge climbing session and enjoy a fresh juice, have a perfectly made coffee or have something to eat from the healthy menu. Summit Lounge is also applying for a liquor license which should make the area all that more appealing to climbers after a climbing session.

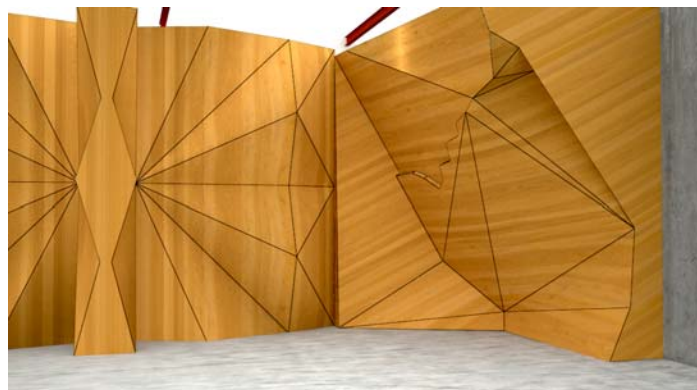
Summit Lounge also has a designated functions area which is ideal for kids' parties, social events, meetings or corporate team building events. The functions room looks directly onto the climbing area at 5 meters providing great interaction between spectators and climbers. Bookings are essentials and with a free gift pack for the birthday child so be sure to mention if your booking is for a birthday.

You can follow City Summit's progress on:

TWITTER @citysummit

WEBSITE www.citysummit.com.au

or e-mail Damien Hall (damienhall@citysummit.com.au) or Nigel Ray (nigelray@citysummit.com.au) for further details. [Ed: They're really nice to talk to.]



3D Modelling has been used to design walls that will challenge climbers at every level.

The **Opening Night** of City Summit will be reserved for **CAWA Members**, thanks to the ongoing support of City Summit owners, Damien Hall and Nigel Ray. Come down to the gym to be the first to experience what City Summit has to offer. The date for the opening of City Summit will be posted on the CAWA website, so watch out for the update notice. [Ed: I know I'll be there.... !!!]

CAWA SOCIAL NIGHT
6:30PM, 23 NOVEMBER 2011

CAWA GROUP TICKETS—SOLD OUT

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS AVAILABLE
WWW.BOCSTICKETING.COM.AU

Nine films will be featured in the 2011 Radical Reels tour. The 1.5 hour screening will take you on a wild adventure to some of the most beautiful places in the world. The screening will cover everything from cross country snow boarding, mountain biking, skiing, rock climbing (of course), hand gliding off the French Alps, high speed skateboarding and kayaking down Africa's mighty Zambezi River. Based on Sigmund Freud's theory that "happiness is a child's dream fulfilled in maturity", this screening will rock!!!



TUZGLE

FRANCE, 2010 - 13 MINUTES
FOCUS: Bouldering

Nestled under the Tuzgle volcano in Argentina lies an unexplored wonderland of boulders and crags. Tuzgle follows Swiss climber Nina Caprez and her climbing companions as they discover this playground in the desert.

CAWA Announcement: A lucky draw will be conducted on the night for those that purchased CAWA group tickets. The cost of 2 tickets will be refunded to the lucky winner! Meet the President at 6pm at the bar to collect your tickets and catch up with your climbing buddies for a pint or two!



EAGLESTONE ROCK

By Tony Brebner



*Photo of Hamish tackling Suzuki Crack (17).
Photograph by Lloyd*

Between 2 and 4 September, 20 CAWA members ventured out to Eaglestone Rock for an incredibly memorable trip. For some, it was their first outdoor trip. We had all read the Eaglestone Report from the 2010 Western Climber, we had poured over the routes in the Perth Rock Guide Book and we had a tick list to do...

For those of us who left on Friday for Eaglestone Rock, for all the right reasons, the rain was persistent. Overtaking road trains on the Great Eastern Highway at the best of times is tricky. In a total downpour, only the indication from the truckies safely saw us through.

Brenton and Kat had the CAWA shelter up when we arrived. Its last use at Kalbarri was for similar purpose (sadly) for sheltering disappointed climbers stuck in the rain. A break in the showers allowed us to quickly set up our tents and check out the crag. We were back some 15 minutes later when the rain returned.

The serious job of lighting the fire, cooking and drinking (responsibly of course) began and the camp site filled up. At 10pm the sky cleared and the sky shone with thousands of stars.

The eager beavers were up early, 05:30, and after breakfast headed to the rock. Our first lead was on the Bitter wall, a tricky start for a clean finish. Top ropes were set up for others and by 9:30am everyone was having fun in the sun. By mid-day, the Bitter Wall, Terradome Wall and the Mini-Me Boulder were busy. We squeezed in some trad climbing on Mini Me (6m, Gr.10), but it needed at the most, only two pieces of protection before topping out. Jaundice and Suzuki Crack both enjoyed lots of attention, especially after the discovery of an old, dead bird wedged in the crack.

Early afternoon and with the shift of the sun around to the Wishbone and Emu Wall, the energy was still flowing. Lost of discussion around protecting the crack start on Wishbone, but it was certainly a 2-star** route after that. Fear The Smear also gave us a good run for our money, and it was worth it when completed.

A reptilian friend made his presence known around the ankles of the belayers on Wishbone wall, but wisely he slithered off towards the Bad Seed Boulders to look for a sunny spot for his afternoon siesta.

By late afternoon the hard men and women of CAWA made their presence felt on Emu Wall with Manuel, Kylie, Ang, Tim, Mark, Kate and many others all claiming Capchow, You Don't Know Jack, Pink Rings, Sparrow, and the Old School routes. As it became cooler, beers were calling and we headed back to Eaglestone Tent City.

The fire burnt brightly under another clear night sky and a suggestion for a group photo quickly divided the group across the "let's do it" bunch and the "too risky" group.



*Glorious sunset gently lighting a field of wild flower
Photograph by Lloyd*



Glorious, Glorious Rock... And Lots of it!!!
Photograph by Tony Brebner

The central boulder in the camp site area was made for bouldering and had been subject of numerous ascents in the morning and afternoon, but a night climb for a photo shoot??? Happily, common sense prevailed and those who had reservations or didn't get to the top of the boulder in time, were framed in the group photo underlining the ascendants who did.

Sunday again dawned clear and cold. Kate and Peter had decided to tick all the routes off and they continued to knock them down. Brian gave us a lesson in hard crack climbing with some outrageous moves on Fidget Gene.

On Saturday, after taking in the magic scenery that the view from up on Eaglestone Rock had to offer, Hamish racked up and showed us his Tasmanian climbing skill. Lloyd, Pauline, Mark, Tim, Peter and I continued to give everything we could a shot. For us, You Don't Know Jack was a favourite. Ang showed us how to "grovel gracefully" over the lip of Cold Nights. It had it's own theatrical setting as climber after climber was unable to "grovel gracefully" enough.

Our friendly reptilian watched through slitted eyes, shook his head in amazement, decided that he should leave these strange people to do what they were doing, and without much fuss, slinked away to a quieter spot.

By midday, Fathers Day in Perth was calling and some of us packed up and headed home. On the way out we saw Kate and Peter still attempting to tick off climbs.

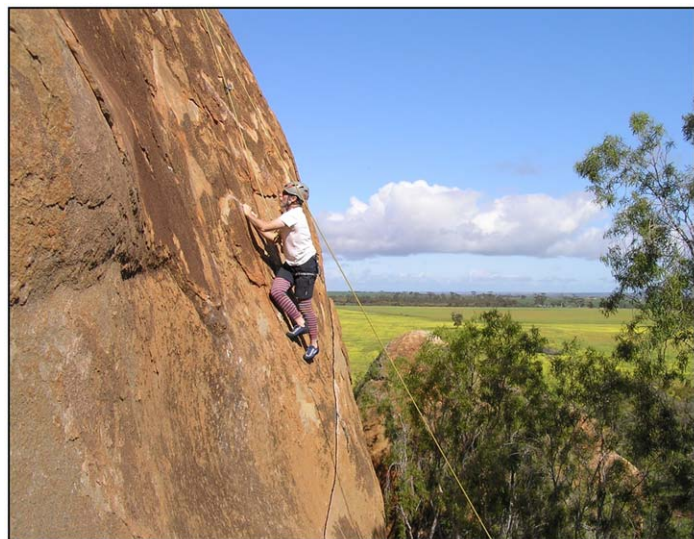
Eaglestone Rock was, for us newbies a magic place, with great rock, awesome surroundings and a relaxing weekend of climbing with friends.

By late afternoon, I was myself enjoying Father's Day with my family, but my hands were still tingling from the great climbing we enjoyed.

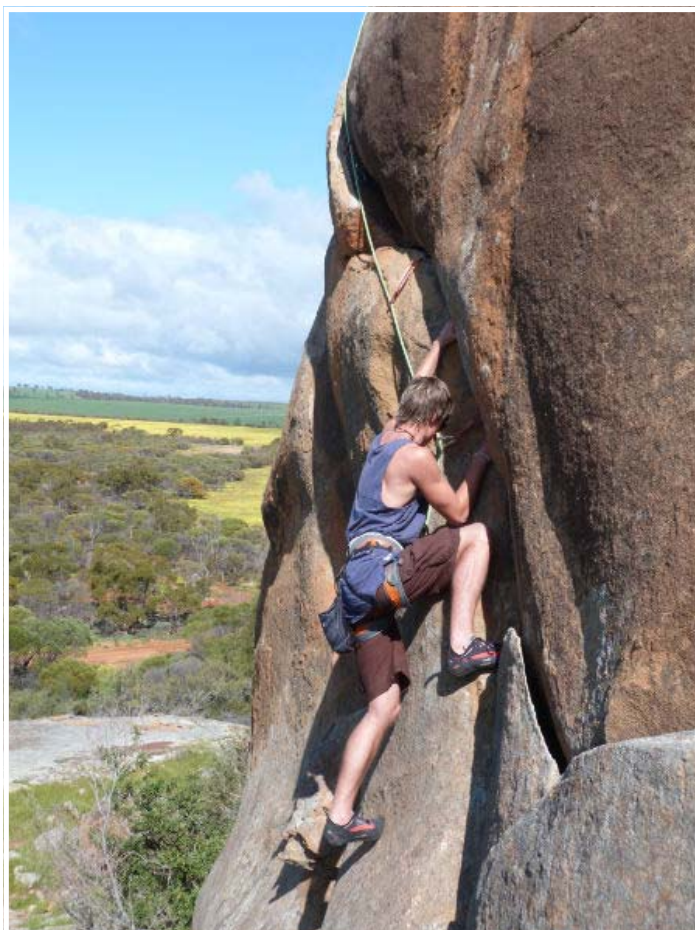


Above: CAWA group at the campsite boulder.
Photograph by Mark Kleinman

Left: Our fearless leader scaling Fear the Smear (14m, 21). He added frictional resistance to aide his climbing, explaining the very groovy (?) thermals.
Photograph by Kate Swain



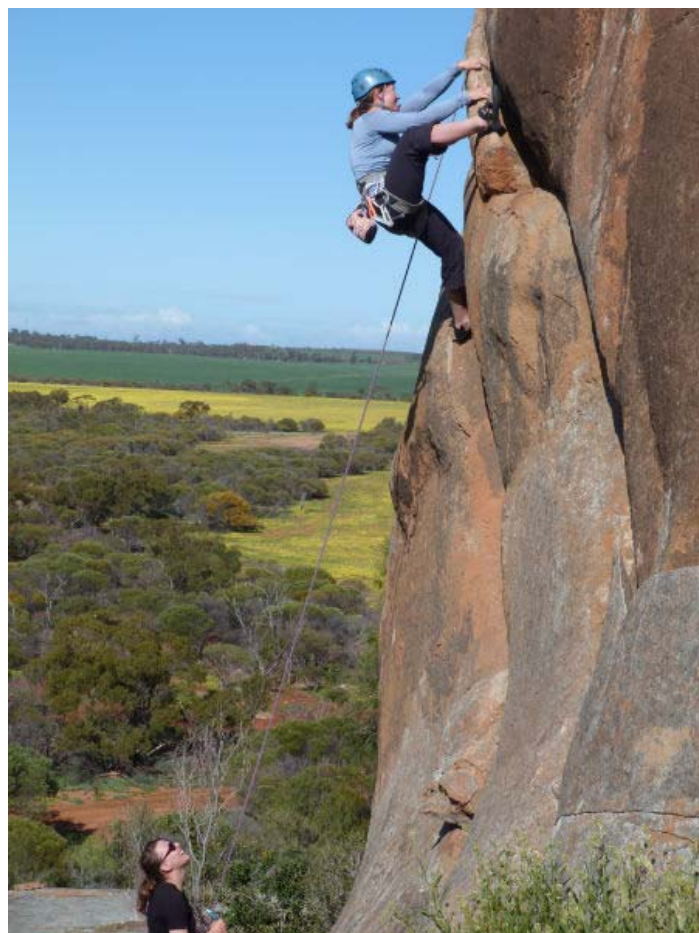
Top: As the sunsets on another perfect day, a climber ponders the frustrations of a project that is not yet complete...
Photograph by Kate Swain



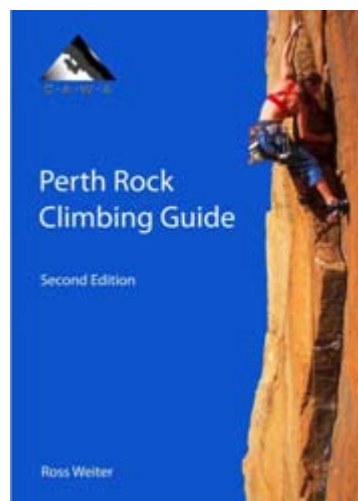
***Left: Lloyd getting into a tight squeeze on Suzuki Crack (17)
Photograph by Anonymous***

***Below Right: Kylie showing class with a smart heel hook on Suzuki Crack (17)
Photograph by Lloyd***

***Below Left: Silhouette of a climber not fearing the smear
Photograph by Peter Church***



GUIDE BOOKS—EAGLESTONE ROCKS



Perth Rock Climbing Guide, 2nd Edition (Nov 2010, CAWA)

by: Ross Weiter

This comprehensive guide with 37 areas and 970 climbs, covering every climbing route within 2 hours drive of Perth, including Eaglestone Rock near Merredin.

Cost: A\$40

Available at Rockface, The Hangout, Mainpeak and Paddy Pallin.

CAWA Special: The guide is A\$34 (15% discount on RRP) when purchased directly through CAWA at gym crashes or social events only.

CLIMBING IN THAILAND

By Kristine Poole & Blake Thompson



Photograph of Rail Ley East by Kristine Poole

"Left, left, left! Now up, up.... go right, right!! Keep going keep going!"

Back to that in a moment....

If you are looking for an in-depth and up to date review of routes, the best walls, most hard core climbs, and secret deep water solo locations in Thailand: buy a guide book. If you are contemplating heading to Thailand for some climbing and want to know 'what else is on offer', including how to find best place to eat on Phi Phi Island, and why there is so much yelling on the beach at Rai Lay – continue reading. Hopefully our experiences can offer a bit of information that is not included in the climbing guides or the Lonely Planet.

Time to travel?

Our group stayed 10 days over Easter Weekend 2011. It was the last week of the tourist season which meant it was hot, humid and not particularly crowded. We did not get the daily afternoon rain we had been told to expect; only a few evening showers that left the rock dry by morning. Which was good because first thing in the morning was the best climbing; not yet hot and sticky. During mid afternoon climbs we were so sweaty at times we were literally slipping off the rock!

Travel tips...

As far as best way to get to Rai Lay from Perth, if you can be flexible with your dates, you can get good prices. There didn't seem to be one 'best' option, however if you can fly with little baggage Air Asia was the cheapest. Routes taken by the group varied. We flew direct from Perth to Phuket (Thai Airways), and took a vehicle

transfer to Krabi. This flight is a loop and on the return we stopped over in Bangkok. Other flew directly to Krabi via Singapore (Air Asia). One thing to consider is that Singapore has access much better duty free shopping.

Rai Ley Beach...

Following good advice, we spent little time in Krabi and skipped Ao Nang (where did they go for awesome food?). The Night Market in Krabi was a highlight and a good way to spend the evening before moving to Rai Lay. Most of the accommodations provide cheap transport to the beach to catch a longtail; the only way to get to Rai Lay Beach. The Lonely Planet suggested it could be difficult at times to get a boat, however we found it quick and easy. Getting people and bags into and out of the boats was quick and efficient – waterproofing gear and valuables is however recommended.

The west side of the peninsula has two beaches, Ton Sai and Rai Ley West. This is the pricey section. The cheaper accommodation is on Rai Ley East. There are no cars on Rai Ley, which adds to the relaxed atmosphere. The beach and beautiful sunset on the west side is only a ten minute walk away. There is climbing on both sides, so it depends on what you are looking for.

We stayed at Diamond Cave Resort, at the far end of the Rai Ley East. The accommodation itself was average (by that I mean the Australian average in that it was a bit crappy, not Canadian average that would mean it was, well, average) including the restaurant, compared to the alternatives close by. The resort was redeemed by the fact that it sits at the base of the Diamond Cave climbing area. AND from the pool you can watch the monkeys climb the walls. It is also very convenient if you are a dedicated soul and want to be out there at 6am before it gets hot.



Monkeys at the Diamond Dave Resort ogling tourists by the pool. Photograph by Kristine Poole.

Climbing – An Insight

At 9am sharp, the major climbing walls become a frenzy of activity. This is when the climbing schools start their morning sessions. The climbers possess various levels of ability and hire local guides. They range from climbers who want to try out some challenging leads, to families with children and out of shape middle aged parents. The companies use a few specific walls, and you will figure out which ones very quickly.

This is where I refer back to my opening statement. As soon as the climbers are tied in, the yelling commences. Thai guides calling every move, literally step by step. Every guide, for every climber. 'Up, up, left, LEFT!!' and so on. It's loud. And a bit distracting. However it seems to work for the people taking the lessons.

In terms of the climbing, there are plenty of crags which are easily accessible by foot. Anywhere in Rai ley is only a five minute walk and the furthest is only 20 minutes away. There is a large range of difficulty grades. More importantly there are plenty of starred routes and the views from the top (if you make it!) are amazing.. The best piece of advice is to find a guide book (available to order online) and to circle wistfully.

Other Activities around Rai Ley

It's good to know that if it is too hot, or you are over it for the day, there are plenty of other things to do.

The Cave: Near the Escher Wall is Thaiwand wall. Rather than go all the way around, you can head through a cave system that deposits you on the far side of the peninsula. If entering this cave, wear sturdy non-climbing shoes and a headlamp to manoeuvre the dark tunnels and rope ladders. Rope, harness and belay device is also necessary, as the final move is to rappel from the mouth of the cave. It was pretty awesome, and highly recommended. The cave is cool (as in cold) – a nice reprieve from the heat.

Deep water solo: This was interesting. Instead of hopping on with a tour group, we hired a long tail. The guys had done their research, and knew a few places they wanted to go. The idea was that we could get some local knowledge as well as distance from the crowds. We were mistaken. Or guide took us to all of the same places the tour boats went with the masses of people, even when showed where we wanted to go on the map. Even more frustrating when we arrived at a location first, we had to stay back and give way to the tour boat as it came in closer to the wall. As you can see in the picture, it was not exactly the experience everyone was looking for.

Other fun stuff that you can try is snorkelling, diving and ocean kayaking. At the The Last Bar Restaurant, there is great food and atmosphere. Try the fired fish. You get to pick your own.... very carefully.



There's a queue on the Crag! Crowded Deep Water Solo (DWS) site. Photograph by Kristine Poole.

Next stop Phi Phi Island...

Neighbouring Phi Phi Island is much more of a tourist / backpacker haven. The Ton Sai area is loud, especially in the evening. We were relatively far away on the eastern shore but we could still hear it. If you are there for the night life, Ton Sai is the place to be. However as some of our group found out, it virtually ensures you will not be climbing the next day. Take care as this place is known for violent clashes between drunk tourists and locals.

To be close to the climbing, the best place to stay is the Tonsai Bay side on the West. The climbing area can be access by walking to the end of the beach and following a marked trail. Conveniently close to the climbing area is the hospital. Unfortunately we had to pay a visit, but were glad to find an English speaking doctor. A less than ideal way for one of our party to end the climbing portion of his trip, however it was good to know help is there if you need it.



Above & Right: Deep Water Soloing (DWS) experiences—going for a swim was initially fun, but exhausting after a while. Photo by Kristine Poole

Other Activities around Phi Phi

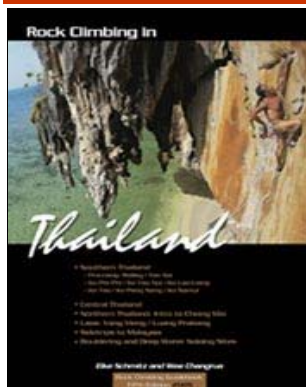
Phi Phi Island and surrounding areas has fantastic scuba diving and snorkelling. The Shark Watch Snorkelling Trip with Adventure Club is an early morning start, but totally worth it. We had schools of reef sharks swimming around us. If you plan to snorkel, pick a tour provider with a dedicated snorkelling group. Our boat disappeared to pick up the scuba divers that shared out boat, leaving us to hang out at a rocky spot to wait for the boat to return. At least it did.

All in all, our trip was awesome – and I didn't even talk about the climbing! Would we go back? Definitely. Parting words: beware of the barbeque. If it looks sketchy, it probably is.

Happy trails.



GUIDE BOOKS—THAILAND



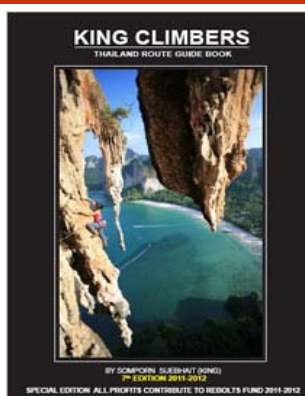
Rock Climbing Guidebook to Thailand, 5th Ed.

Over 240 pages with 100 climbing areas and 80 easy-to-read topographic maps. Covers Railay, Ton Sai and Krabi areas; as well as island climbing on Phi Phi Island, Yao Noi Island and Laoliang Island.

It includes a chapter on Deep Water Soloing and Bouldering options in the Ko Tao area. For those venturing further afar, there are also climbs for areas in Laos and side trips to Malaysia. Route recommendations for every grade level.

This book can be purchased on-line from various stores.

Cost: US\$ 40 (approximately A\$40) excludes postage.



Kings Climbers Thailand Route Guide Book, 7th Ed.

This is a comprehensive guide book on rock climbing in Thailand. It covers Railay, Krabi & Phi Phi. Colour photos, useful tips on surviving Thailand and miscellaneous trivia. With over 1000 routes, this guide book will keep you busy for years.

Note: Profits from this guide book go towards re-bolting routes in Rai Lay and Tonsai areas.

The book can be purchased directly from Kings Climbers (kingclimbers@iname.com).

Cost: 1050 Baht (approximately A\$35) including worldwide airmail postage.

CLIMBING IN KALYMNOS

By Kate Swain

Cream and orange rock dripping with grand tufas, colosseum-sized stalactite columns and featured pocketed walls form the battlement of climbing walls found on Kalymnos. The abundant cliffs, up to 100 metres tall stand along the western side of the island, spread out above and away from the small climbers' paradise town of Massouri.

The island is one of over 100 off the coast of Greece; it is located closer to Turkey than its Greek ruler. It lies amongst a string of islands, some of which can be seen from its shores. The island is 109 km², with approximately 17,000 residents. In summer, the island's main port of Pothia sees thousands of visitors that come to visit the ancient chapels and ruins, as well as the relaxation associated with the holidaying on a Greek island.

On the shoulder seasons (mainly September & October), when the main tourists depart at the end of their summer holiday, climbers descend on the island for the rock climbing. There are over 800 routes established with Grades from 5a to 8c (or 15 to 33).

The main style of climbing is on tufas and pockets, with a variety of techniques required to obtain the chains. There are climbs all angles from slab to vertical, to overhanging to horizontal roofs! The exception in style is the lower graded routes, generally 6a and below, which are on pocket and crimps, as that seems to be the features of the lower angled rock.

Neil and I arrived at Athens airport from France where we had come from two week climbing in the southern area of Verdon and Ceuse. We met up with three other friends who had flown in from Australia and Canada for the daily 45 minute Olympic Air flight out to Kalymnos or its neighbouring island of Kos. Kalymnos can be reached from Kos via a 30 minute ferry ride.

Upon landing at the newly constructed airport we grabbed taxis and took the short but very winding and exciting drive to Massouri. Exciting because all the roads are only just wide enough for two cars to pass, but the locals all drive at normal 50-60 km/h speeds weaving in between the oncoming traffic and the parked cars, while scooter drivers weave around the cars.

While Kalymnos is not a very busy island, it still has its fair share of traffic. Despite this, the locals seem not to notice our uncomfortableness at their speeds as they speedily squeeze their cars along the roads.



***Kate rock-wresting on Magma, Telendos Island.
Photograph by Richard***

We caught our first sight of the climbing within minutes of landing, as the taxi topped a steep rise and dropped down into the small town of Missouri. The prominent cliffs that stood above the town were intriguing. We tried to spot the famous walls we'd heard about like the Grand Grotto, a huge cave dripping with stalactites.

The Grotto is home to the most photographed route on Kalymnos - *Aegialis* (7c+), described as "a mega-classic stamina monster" that climbs a line of discontinuous fins along the lip of the cave for 30 metres. *Trela* (7a) (meaning 'madness') is a route that "takes you into a different dimension". This line has been bolted impeccably to facilitate the easiest possible way through 40 very, very overhanging meters which meander through totally amazing tufa formations.

Ten minutes later the taxi mounted a steep driveway and dropped us off at Lambrinos Studios, our home for the next month. The 12 studio apartments comprise tiers that follow the steep slope of the hillside on which they are built. Behind the five-storey studios, the steep hillside continues ending at the limestone cliffs.

On the opposite side of the road in the other direction lies another row of buildings, beyond which lies the Mediterranean.

Neil and I scored the top apartment, complete with balcony overlooking the bay, and the small island of Tenedos. Score! We spent many evenings on the balcony drinking Mythos (local beer) and eating local olives and dolmades after our great days of climbing.

You have to spend money to enjoy Kalymnos: there's no camping, and certainly nowhere to camp free. Studios and apartments are plenty, and cheap by European standards. We paid 25 Euros/night and got a one room place with a fridge, stove, kitchenette, and two beds, then a separate bathroom with a shower, and our own balcony.

Eating out was almost the same price as cooking in, so every night was spent sampling the local cuisine, a mix of Greek and Italian with plenty of home recipes and fresh seafood to choose from. Given all of this it meant that the climbers attracted to the place were generally older; the average age was 40+ years.

Everyone who we met were climbers - except the locals! Even then, the locals were all very friendly and welcoming. Most of the locals that we met had friends or family in Australia, or even been there themselves and were even friendlier to Australians!

We had a great time and did a huge amount of climbing at all grades. Just about all of the routes were more than comfortably bolted, and I think I would be very hard pressed to find another place so enjoyable to climb at, to

spend time just being there and able to share it with so many friends.

Logistics:

Kalymnos Island can be reached either by flying direct from Athens on Olympic Airlines for 100 Euros one way; by flying from Athens to Kos (bigger island close by), and catch a ferry across (25 minutes, 3.50 Euros one way). Alternatively, it is possible to take a day boat ride from Athens (12 hour journey) for economy (30-35 Euros).

Weather:

Peak season for ideal weather at Kalymnos is autumn (September and October) as the tufas are dry, and the temperatures start to cool. This provides great temperatures to enjoy balcony evenings for socialising. April and May would also be okay, but I think summer (June to August) would be very hot, and winter (December to February) would be very cold and too uncomfortable to really enjoy all that the island has to offer.

Food:

The Kalymnos climbing guidebook by Aris Theodoropoulos says that to buy and cook food in your apartment is almost as much as to eat out, and we found this to be true for the most part. Average prices for meals were 12 -15 Euros including a main course, a couple of drinks and a shared entrée. The cuisine is Greek-Italian with some French food. All of the dining places have their own 'home recipes' for the local dishes, so it's worth sampling the classic dishes like moussaka at more than one place as they are all different!



*Photo (Left): Mark styling it on Odyssey, Photograph by Neil Geldhill
Photos (Right): Kalymnos sunset and the Resident Grotto Goat, Photographs by Kate Swain*



*Unknown climber
styling it on the
Aegealis.*

*Photograph by
Kate Swain*

Accommodation:

Pick somewhere on the furthest side away from Masouri, like Lambrinos Studios, as this is the closest to the climbing locations while still being walking distance to the restaurants and shops. It can be expected to cost around 25 Euros a night in peak season, (Sep and Oct) but after the 1st of November we saw many places shut down, and prices are able to be bargained down.

Transport:

Scooters were popular with no prior riding experience required. Most companies that hire the scooters require an international driver's licence from the people using them (licences can be purchased from RAC for \$30 before you leave). Most of the companies that we checked prices for hiring scooters for 12 Euros per day, or as low as 8 Euros per day for longer periods.

Buses go to Pothia (also spelled Pothea) every hour during the day and also to the other end of the island three times a day. While we were there, the bus tickets were 1.5 to 2 Euros one way and was handy for visiting the Ghost Kitchen.

Car hire is available. An international driver's licence is required, and the prices we saw ranged from as low as 35 Euros per day for single or two day hire. The rates are cheaper for longer hire periods.

Taxis are available, though scarce in Massouri. It is best to get your accommodation owner to book you one for the airport. The cost should be around 10 Euros.

Classic Routes:

Monahiki Elia (6a+), Trela (7a), DNA (7a+), Priapos (7c) at Grand Grotto; Joy in the Garden (6a+), Persephone (6b), Dafni (6c+), Axiom (7a) at Ghost Kitchen; Feta (6c), Daphne (7b), Amphora (7b), Marci Marc (7c+) at Odyssey ; and Lolita (7a), Armata Sikati (7b), Morgan (7c+) at Sikati Cave .

GUIDE BOOKS—KALYMNOS



Kalymnos Rock Climbing Guide

Purchase direct on-line from
Climb Kalymos at:

www.climbkalymos.com

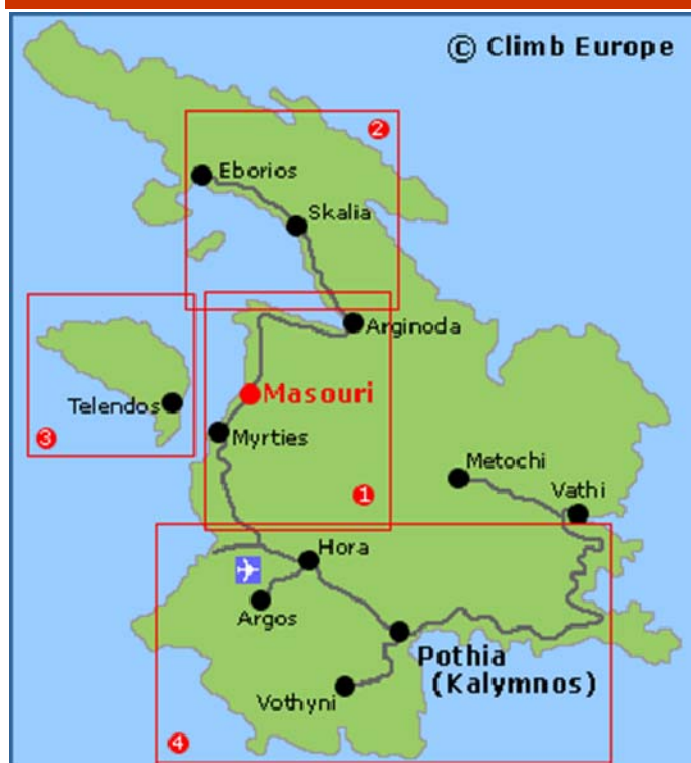
Cost: €38 (A\$50)
includes worldwide airmail
All guidebooks are posted
within 48 hours of order.

This guide book by Aris Theodoropoulos has 64 climbing sectors and over 1700 routes. There is a concise crag planner and new photo topos, complete with stunning images. There are detailed maps with approach paths.

Useful crag information such as conditions, rock type, sun, orientation and "child-friendliness" is in the guide. Routes have recommended equipment list.

There is also tips on travel, accommodation, amenities, local interests and rest-day activities.

Map of the rock climbing and sport climbing areas of Kalymnos



Courtesy of www.climb-europe.com

CLIMBING IN THE GRAMPIANS

By Peter Thomas

First 22 tick of the trip coming up, here we go. Move left from the belay, put a couple of good wires in and crank a couple of moves up the juggy, 30 degree overhanging crack. I hang on a good jug with my left hand and whack in a quick wire before a couple more cranks to get the tick in the bag. Then bugger, my big stopper has jammed weirdly across the obvious nut-slot. It won't move. Stay cool. At 35°C or so, that's not so easy. A few more wiggles and it shifts, and I can sink it in a little better, but it's not great.

Now my left hand on the monster jug is starting to sweat and uncurl. If this was bolted, I'd have been up here in a flash. Bloody trad! This and other thoughts as I take a no-hands rest on the not-so-fantastic nut and place another, better one. Conrad on belay is not so impressed, understandably, but if he puts in the photo of me hanging on the gear I'll kill him! [Ed: consider it done, Peter!]. Starless And Bible Black is the climb, a fine 22 at Arapiles, Central Gully Right Wall. Prior to this, Conrad had bravely led up the gnarly and desperate first pitch, graded 21 but probably the crux.



Mount Difficult, Grampians
Photograph by Ross Weiter

The trip started the day before with Conrad, Ross, Jon and myself staggering off the red-eye flight and driving from Melbourne to Arapiles via a pie shop somewhere forgettable. You forget a lot at my age. Luckily I wrote down the climbs done on this trip, or else this article would be incredibly short.

We started at Arapiles to meet up with Phil Calais and his harem of intrepid girls who were just completing two weeks of 'raps classics. The first day we ticked some easier classics (and got frightened), while Phil and girls



Peter climbing with 'surprising' ease on the 2nd pitch of Starless And Bible Black (22) Arapiles. Photo: C. Slee

cooled off in a waterhole near Nati. Rumours of Ang swinging into the water sans clothing of any description were confirmed by photographic evidence that night, as we celebrated Kylie's birthday in Horsham. Next day they were all back to Perth, so it was full-on hard-man stuff for us from now on. Like cheating on Starless...

After Starless, myself and Conrad whizzed up The Bard (12). What a classic. If only we had easy climbs of that quality in WA. Meanwhile, Jon had onsighted Ethereal (21) – must be the shaved legs and lack of any training [Ed: outside of cycling to excess]. The next day we moved to Halls Gap in the Grampians, a beautiful spot with an almost alpine feel to it, located within a valley with decent hills and peaks on all sides. Jon had booked us a mega luxury log cabin. Of course I was all for camping like the hard men of old, but had to join my softie companions. Tearing ourselves away from the aircon and big flat screen telly, we sampled Bundaleer. After a 10-minute walk uphill on a wooded hillside and you are at a fantastic, big crag. It is so shady in the afternoon that it was cold, even on a hot day.

We all had a go at Blimp, the ultimate classic grade 20 corner crack. Jon and Ross led Pathos, a grade 21 wall with a thin seam for bomber nuts. With the odd plummet here and there, our collective lack of fitness and recent climbing was evident. Victoria was in the grips of an early summer heatwave, so we gave the mornings a miss and headed for crags that were in the shade in the afternoon. An inability to get up and tear ourselves away for the cabin fleshpots had nothing to do with it.

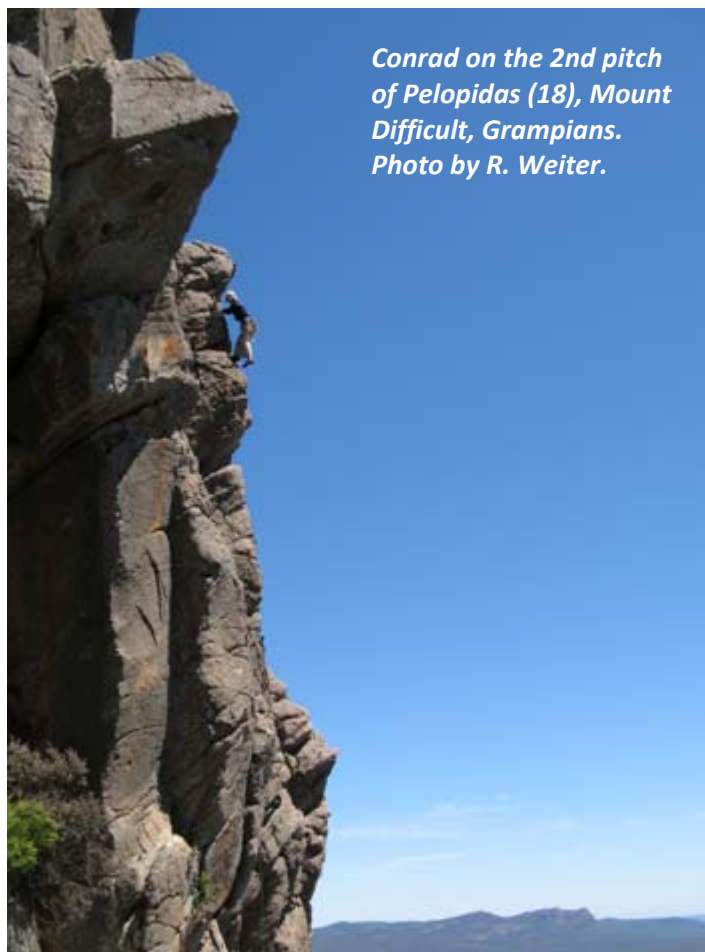
Part one of this master plan was Mt Difficult, a 25 minute slog up a hill to another gobsmacking crag. Ross and I did the improbable Sword In The Stone (17) – three pitches, of which two offer scary positions through huge overhangs. Jon and Conrad took the nearby Pelopidas, (18). The master plan went wrong at this point, with the sun beating down on us. I opted for the uber-classic first pitch of Up, Up And Away, a grade 18 with juggy cracks, thin cracks, and a headwall with no holds or gear apparent until you made the moves to find them. It is a long pitch that just keeps on giving.

Meanwhile Jon and Conrad made a good choice with Strutting Through The Stratosphere, an apparently not too desperate grade 22 with a “beautiful orange wall” on pitch one, followed by a steep pitch of juggy flakes on a blunt arête up to a short, thin crux, then belay and nirvana. This was another good lead by Jon.



Above: Peter on the classic Blimp (20), Bundaleer, Grampians. Photo: C. Slee; Below: Jon on Pathos (21), Bundaleer, Grampians. Photo: R. Weiter





Conrad on the 2nd pitch of Pelopidas (18), Mount Difficult, Grampians. Photo by R. Weiter.

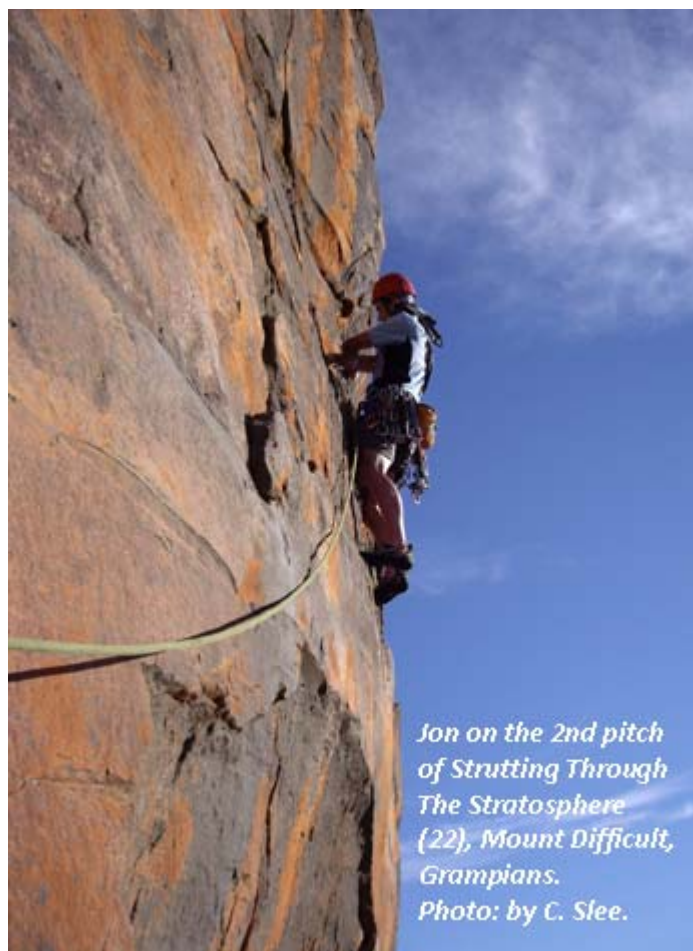
The cabin had a fine stock of cold beer, and came with a chef (Jon) who produced some excellent home cooking, before we settled down in front of the big screen, coldie in hand. Suitably energised, it was Mt Rosea the next day. It was great to actually see these places that you read about so often in Rock mag, and see speccy shots of by Simon Carter .

Rosea is the obligatory 25 minute uphill hike from the car, and boasts some legendary multi-pitch climbs. Ross and I teamed-up again for Fringe Dweller (21), which starts with a classic and desperate corner, which I was very happy that Ross led. Trad climbs are hard. If the same pitch was a sport climb with a bolt every 1.5 metres, it would be graded 22 or 23. It is insane how easy sport climbs are compared to this stuff. This or else I'm just getting old.

Anyway, my pitch 2 lead was an exciting wall and flared crack, quite thin on gear. Pitch 3 was okay. Then I placed about ten bits of gear before finally committing to the steep crux on pitch 4. It had an unlikely bridge over a bottomless corner and a couple of thank-God holds, and it was in the bag. We could not reach our intended rap point, however, as the ledge to reach it had recently fallen off the cliff! So one more pitch to the top, the less said about it the better.

Meanwhile Jon and Conrad did the uber-stonking Last Rites (19), a seductive tale of corners, flakes, overhangs, grooves and a daunting steep corner. We may have had good intentions of doing heaps of climbs at Rosea, but with the heat – and very late start – one was all we could muster that day. And so back to the fridge-load of Grolsch...

The following day was mega hot, so three of us went for the short walks and extreme temperatures of the Mount Stapylton area (Summerday Valley and Sandanista Cliffs). Ross took a rest day – well, he is over 40, you know. I'd always expected Mt Stapylton, or any other Mount for that matter, to involve a massive uphill slog. Luckily Stapylton has eroded over millions of years to very modest proportions – but with a few splendid steep bits. Like, seriously steep. Take Sandinista, for example. This fearsome 23, recently downgraded to 22, is a spectacular crack and flake system that works its way diagonally up and rightwards on a massively overhanging wall, all in one long and outrageously sustained and strenuous pitch. It was in the shade, so no probs. Only, it was about 40°C in said shade.

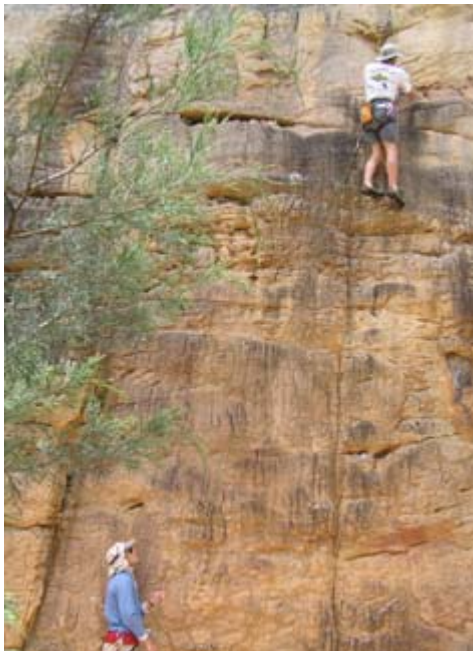


Jon on the 2nd pitch of Strutting Through The Stratosphere (22), Mount Difficult, Grampians. Photo: by C. Slee.

Fearless Jon led up, having seconded Ross on it years before. All was going well until the weird bulge near the end. Choosing not to waste energy placing gear before surmounting this horror, the post-crux gear placement was proving somewhat stressful. Finally it went in, but



Ross and Peter on the 2nd pitch of Fringe Dweller (21), Mount Rosea, Grampians.
Photo: C. Slee



Jon on the solid Sandanista (23), Sandanista Cliffs, Grampians.
Photo: P. Thomas collection.

Jon and Conrad on Tootsie Direct (22), Summerday Valley, Grampians. *Photo: P. Thomas*

half a pumped-out move later he was off, dangling in space and barely able to touch rock. Several intermediate runners flew out, a couple smacking into my hands on belay. Jon eventually prussiked the eight metres or so back onto the route, and finished it off – a pretty good effort in the heat.

We had previously 'warmed up' on a couple of short routes that weren't really in the shade in Summerday Valley. Anyway, myself and Conrad followed and were suitably impressed – and pumped senseless. The highlight of the day was an ice cream at the Giant Koala (near Stawell) on the way back to the mansion.

Our second last day saw us in rain. Not all that much, but we drove around all morning trying to dodge the rain

and make a decision where to climb. We settled on Barbican Wall, goodness knows why – it turns out that it is not this crag that has put the Grampians on the map. The rock is a whole lot worse than elsewhere. Rapier (17) with its direct finish (20) must be the classic of the crag, the finish being another spot where I managed to place a whole rack of gear in a few metres before committing to the crux.

The other classic was Son Of A Gun Direct (21), a fine line of cracks and bulging headwall that Ross disposed of with ruthless efficiency. Its neighbour is Cat O' Nine Tails (21), supposed to be equally good according to the guide [Ed: but being a Mike Law route...] It's the most horrendous pile of choss that I've been on in ages, and I was only seconding. Conrad had the pleasure – and wisely

bailed before the crumbling hand-traverse crux. Back to the Grolsch.

Our last day had come – and it was raining. We drove back to Araps, hoping it would dry quickly between showers and afford us some single pitch climbing. It was a good plan and we ticked some fine climbs in the Voo-



Conrad and Jon on Strutting Through The Stratosphere (22), Mount Difficult. Photo: Ross Weiter

doo Butress area: New Image (20), Tarantula (19), Voodoo (18) and the classic test-piece Chinese Algebra (21) among others. Jon tried the latter one first, followed by Ross, neither quite making it cleanly.

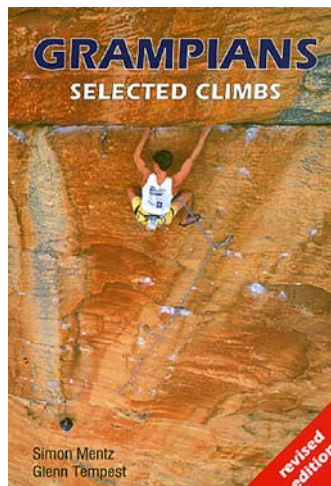
I finally got my head together after a week's climbing, and with copious grunting and sweating, struggled up it successfully. Conrad followed it like it was a 14 [Ed: and drifting in and out of sleep due to too many late nights].



Ross on 3rd pitch of Sword In The Stone (17),

So I never did tick a 22. And none of us came away with big numbers to our name. Maybe it was the heat. Maybe our advancing years. The grog? – naahh! Or maybe it's because trad is bloody hard! It takes a lot more than a few trips to the gym to do it well. But never mind the big numbers, the quality of the climbing is what it is all about, and we were not disappointed. There is still so much more still to do...

GUIDE BOOKS—GRAMPIANS



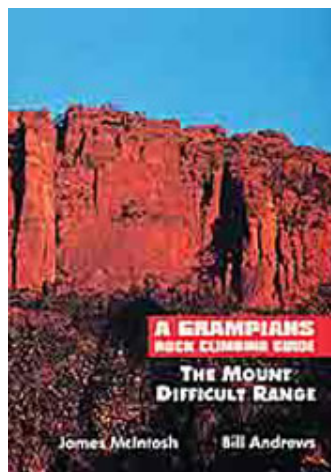
Grampians: Selected Climbs
by Simon Mertz and Glenn Tempest, Open Spaces Photography and Publishing

Cost: A\$40

Available on-line and through many climbing shops.

This is one of the most recent up to date guide books.

This is a selected guide to one of the most important climbing areas in Australia. Forty major cliffs are covered; with 800 climbs, 42 major climbing areas, 60 maps and topos, 120 photographs, history and visitors information.



The Mount Difficult Range
by Bill Andrews and James McIntosh (1999)

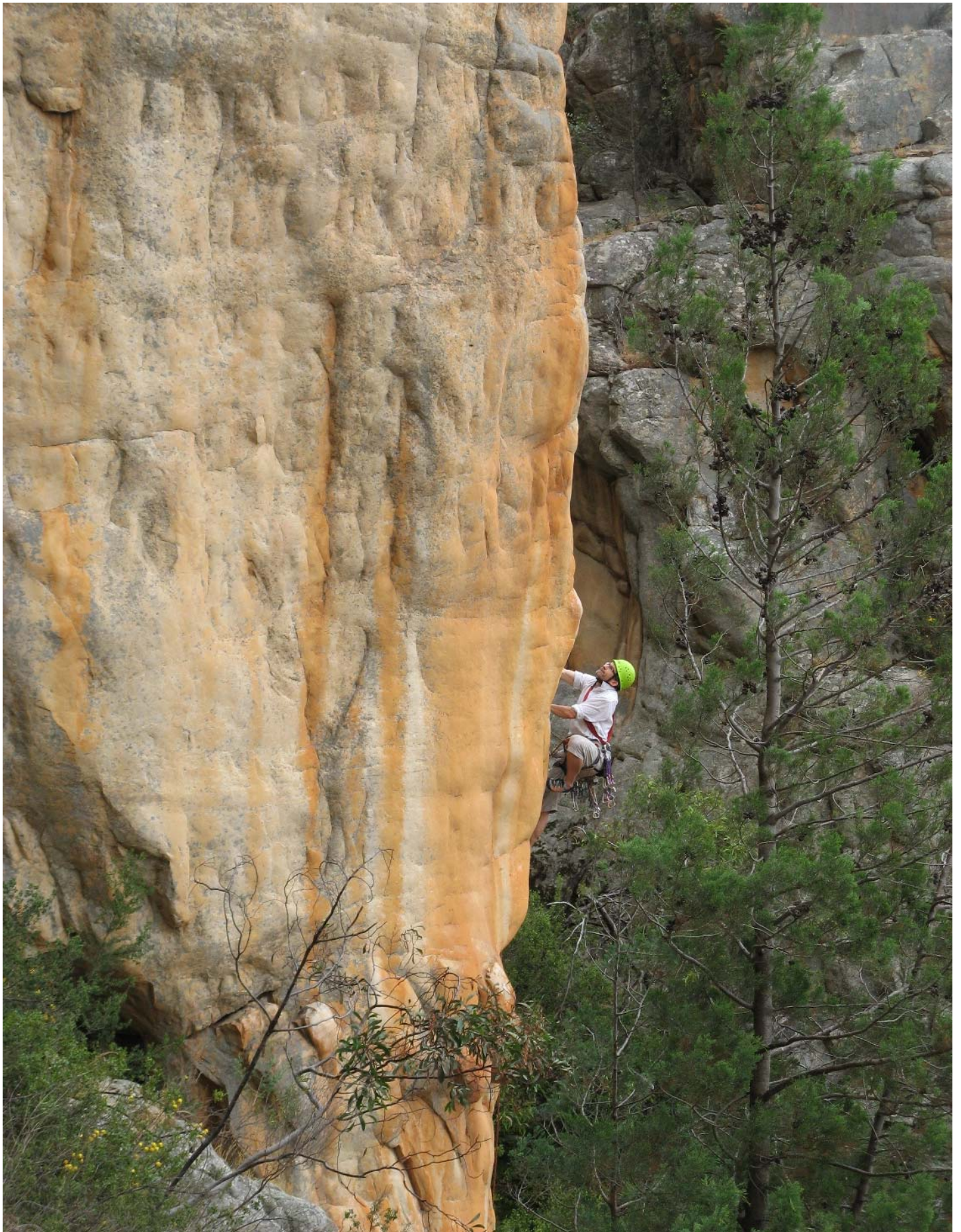
This is one of the most comprehensive guides to the Mount Difficult Range in the Grampians National Park.

Cost: A\$40

Available on-line and through climbing shops.

This soft cover guide book has 192 pages, with over 300 climbs and amazing colour photographs.

Planning a trip to the Grampians? If you're flying solo or would like to have some local contacts, why not try the Victorian Climbing Club (VCC)? Go to www.vicclimb.org.au for lots of information on climbing in Victoria, including the Grampians.



*Peter figuring out Chinese Algebra (21), Voodoo area, on a final rain influenced day trip to Arapiles.
Photo: Jon Gregg.*

BEYOND THE SANDY DESERT

By Trevor Peter

This is a new regular feature for the Western Climber focusing on climbing news from more active parts of Australia and in the International scene. Yes—our mountains are molehills in comparison, but it doesn't mean we can't dream or look forward to participating in interstate or international events or climbing activities (p.s. Send in goss!)

CLIMBING COMPETITIONS: NATIONAL

The East Coast of Australia has been holding a number of competitions over the last few months. Queensland held their State Lead Climbing Titles on 3 April at the Rocksport's Shailer Park Venue. Victoria followed closely with their own State Lead Climbing Titles on 9 April at Bayside Rock in Carrum Downs. On 18 June, NSW held their State Bouldering Championships at Climbfitt in St. Leonards.



Left: Daniel Fisher (ACT Junior) on his way to a Junior and Open Title Above: Sam Berry showing the moves required to take the Open Women's Title. Images from the 2011 National Lead Climbing Event. Photos by Sports Climbing Australia (SCA)

These competitions led up to the Australia National Climbing Titles held at Bayside Rock on July 30 and 31st. A big congratulations to Daniel Fisher who placed first in the Open Men's division and Sam Berry who Placed first in the Open women's Division.

NATIONAL BOULDERING COMPETITION, 15—16 OCTOBER 2011

Think you have what it takes??? Then join the **National Bouldering Competition** that is to be held at the Sydney Indoor Climbing Gym on **October 15 and 16**. Entry fee is \$55 or \$75 after 12 October (late entry fee). Categories that will be contested in both Male and Female: Open, Junior, Youth (4 age groups) and Masters. For competition details and registration go on-line to the Sport Climbing Australia website (www.sportclimbingaustralia.org.au). Please let CAWA know if you're going to participate—we would love to provide support for our WA representatives!

CLIMBING COMPETITIONS: INTERNATIONAL

The International Federation of Sport Climbing is holding a number of World Cup competitions over the coming months. There are another 6 rounds to be held this year with the next in Puurs, Belarus.

The scheduled dates for the remaining rounds in the IFSC World Cup are provided in the calendar. Keep an eye out if you're travelling in the region or would one day, like to participate. For further details, head to the IFSC website at www.ifsc-climbing.org.

The current World Rankings see Jakob Schubert in first place for Men's Lead, Jain Kim in first place for Women's Lead. Dmitry Sharafutdinov and Anna Stohr hold the lead for Men's and Women's bouldering respectively.



Jakob Schubert (World #1 Men's Lead) at the World Cup.
Photo by Lukas Ennemoser, dpm climbing website



Left: Anna Stohr and Right: Dmitry Sharafutdinov, World #1 for Women's and Men's bouldering, respectively.

IFSC CALENDAR

30 September	IFSC Climbing World Cup Puurs, Belarus
01 October	Rock Junior (International)
09 October	IFSC Climbing World Cup
15 October	Jiangyin Rock Master
20 October	IFSC Climbing World Cup
28 October	IFSC Climbing World Cup
11 November	26th South East Asian Games
19 November	IFSC Climbing World Cup
26 November	European Youth Cup
26 November	IFSC Climbing World Cup
09 December	Asian Continental Championship



Jain Kim (World #1 Women's Lead) at the World Cup.
Photo from Urban Climber Magazine.

Current IFSC World Cup Ranking



Rank#1
Russia



Rank#2
Austria



Rank#3
Czech Republic



Rank#4
The USA



Rank#5
China

MOVERS & SHAKERS

DAVE GRAHAM CLIMBS IN THE GRAMPIANS



Above: The Wheel of Life (V16) in Hollow Mountain Cave, Grampians. Set by Ethan Pringle, the climb traverses the underside of this cave. It has a massively long link-up of 60+ moves with several problems in the V9—V12 range.

August saw Dave Graham spending some time bouldering in the Grampians with the V16 Wheel of Life being one of the first problems he started to work on.

Dave was born in Maine, USA in 1981 and is part of the elite professional rock climbing arena. He was introduced to gym climbing only in 1997 and proved to be a natural. He writes an ongoing blog for the website of Climbing Magazine.



Above: Ethan Pringle on The Wheel of Life (V16), Source: Ethan Pringle, Petzl News (www.petzl.com)

ADAM ONDRA CONTINUES CRUSHING THE GRADES

Adam Ondra continues his grade crushing ascents with yet another 9a (35) first ascent of Perlorodka in the Czech Republic.

Adam also performed extremely well in the Arco World Championships finishing 2nd in Bouldering and 3rd in Lead, placing him as the overall winner across disciplines, all this from an 18 year old!

Adam was born in 1993 in the Czech Republic. He started climbing at the tender age of six, encouraged by his parents who both climb. He has demolished many climbing competitions along the way.



Left: Adam Ondra on Perlorodka; Photo By Petr Pavlieek from the Unofficial Website established as a tribute to Adam Ondra www.adamondra.com

Below: Adam Ondra Perlorodka; Photo By Pepe Piechowicz



Perlorodka is Czech for “Pearl Oyster” and is located in Ondra’s home crag of Holstejn.

Thinking about climbing in the Czech Republic? Visit the Czech Climbing website for information including maps, guides and find a buddy that can guide you.

www.czechclimbing.com

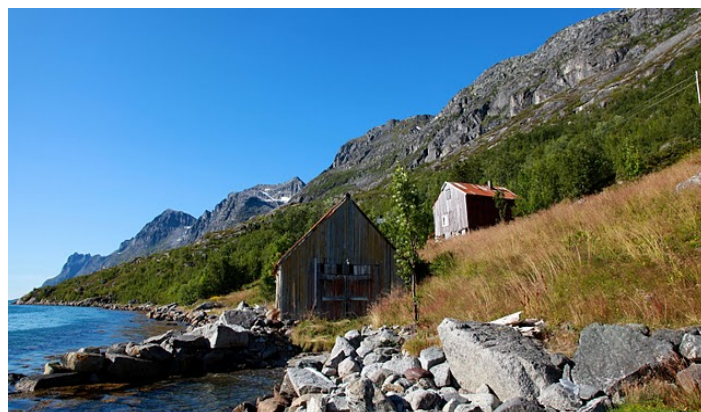
MOVERS & SHAKERS

DAVE MACLEOD PROJECT BONGO BAR, NORWAY

Dave MacLeod has been busy in Norway on Bongo Bar, a 400m aided climb. The resulting 8-pitch climb has been graded from 6b (20) through 8a (29/30). He was joined by Helena Robinson and Julia Snihur, who won a competition to climb and explore Norway with Dave as part of the Gore-Tex Experience Tour, sponsored by Gore-Tex.

Dave was born and still lives in Scotland. He started climbing when he was 15, learning the hard way on the hard rock and in Scottish winters. He established "Rhapsody" was the first E11 (34) graded climb in the world. Dave has been featured in a number of films such as E11 and Echo Wall. He has also written and published a book called "9 out of 10 climbers make the same mistakes". Dave maintains an on-line blog page, with great stories, photographs and worthwhile reads in the "online climbing coach" section (www.davemcleod.com).

Hot Aches Productions was founded by Paul Diffley in 2004 and specializes in rock climbing and mountaineering film. Their first major climbing film "E11" featured Dave MacLeod in his first ascent of Rhapsody and has won 13 international awards.



**Top: Photograph of Bongo Bar (Ersfjorden) in Norway.
Bottom: (L to R) Dave MacLeod, Helena Robinson and Julia Snihur below Blamann. Photographs from the blogsite of hotaches production (www.hotaches.com)**



Left: Dave MacLeod hanging out at "Erik's Fjord"

Right: Dave MacLeod handing off "Fidel" at Gullknausen



All photographs and images courtesy of Hot Aches Production (www.hotaches.com)

ALL ABOUT THE RACK

Source: Petzl Website (www.petzl.com)

PETZL GRI-GRI 2 RECALLS & REPLACEMENT

The Background

Petzl has discovered that exerting excessive force on the fully extended handle of the GRIGRI 2 can cause internal damage, such that the handle may become stuck in the open position. When the handle is stuck in this position the assisted braking function is disabled. A damaged GRIGRI 2 in this configuration will function similarly to a manual belay device (e.g. tube style device).

When using a damaged GRIGRI 2 with the handle stuck in the position as shown below, failure to control the braking side of the rope will increase the risk of an uncontrolled descent. A GRIGRI 2 with a damaged handle must be immediately retired from service.



It is important to note that failure to control the braking side of the rope is a misuse of the GRIGRI 2 under any circumstance (See [GRIGRI 2 Technical Notice](#) available from www.petzl.com).

Petzl Response

Because safety is a primary concern, as a measure of precaution Petzl has decided to take the following actions:

- Increase the mechanical strength of the handle on all GRIGRI 2's since serial number 11137.
- Recall all GRIGRI 2's with the first five digits of the serial number between 10326 and 11136, and replace with a new revised GRIGRI 2.



As of 20 June 2011, only 7 damaged products have been returned to Petzl worldwide. Petzl has no knowledge of any accidents resulting from a damaged GRIGRI 2 handle.

Note: The previous generation GRI GRI is not concerned by this recall.



What to do if you have a GRI GRI 2

If you possess a GRI GRI 2 (D14 2O, D14 2G, D14 2B) with the first five digits of the serial number between 10326 and 11136, contact the local Petzl distributor with your postal address to initiate an exchange. Petzl will pay the shipping costs. In Australia, the Petzl distributor is SPE-LEAN PTY LTD. in Sydney. Contact details:

E-mail : grigri2@petzl.com.au

Phone : +61 2 9966 9800

In Western Australia, the shops that supply climbing equipment (e.g. Mainpeak, Paddy Pallin, Mountain Designs, etc.) had returned their entire stock of Petzl GRI GRI 2 because of this product recall. I'm happy to report that they are back in-store (or available on short order notice)... As I've just picked up mine :)

NEW ROUTES

Please send in details of new routes that have been established in Perth and WA climbing area. Photos and topos would be smashing if these are available!

New routes can also be submitted to CAWA forum:
www.climberswa.asn.au/forum/first-ascents/

STATHAMS QUARRY

Posted by: Ross Weiter

Short Circuit Direct (25m, 19)

Start as for Short Circuit, but then deviate from the original line to the left. Many jugs, couple of cruxes, 10RBs and lower-offs. The route can be pumpy, is very exposed and is quite a long climb.

WILYABRUP

Posted by: Kym H.

Time and Space (20m, 19)

Start 2m left of Disintegration at the southern end of the Terrace. Up the wall past 4 BRs and some natural protection. Nice climbing and great rock. (F.A.K. Hartley, April 2011).

Missing Frog (15m, 16)

This would be the most northern route at Wilyabrup starting at 25 meters left of Peach Face along access rock. Climb up the thin crack and face to the small ledge, then up and left past a bolt into the finger crack. 1 BR and natural protection. (F.A.K. Hartley, April 2011).

Note on climbs above: All bolts require hangers and belays are on natural gear.

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you know CAWA members can place free adverts? Gear for sale, climbing partners, lost gear, lost partners(?), expedition team members, etc. E-mail your classified to editor@climberswa.asn.au by the required submission deadline.

ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN CLIMBER

THIS SPACE COULD CONTAIN YOUR ADVERTISEMENT

Commercial Advertising in the Western Climber will be available for 2012. For information on how to advertise, please contact the Western Climber editor for details including payment and submission format.

Commercial Advertising Rates

(for full year, four issues)

Full Page	A\$160
Half Page	A\$80
Quarter Page	A\$40

Benefits to Commercial Advertisers:

- Readership by niche group of outdoor enthusiasts!
- Electronic publication that will be distributed to all CAWA members (and surely on-passed to more!).
- Full colour advertising that grabs attention.
- Low-cost advertising fees.
- Support the local WA climbing community.
- Access to CAWA Classifieds section, where you can publicise upcoming events, sales / specials, etc.

Advertising funds received through Western Climber will be channelled back into CAWA to support ongoing activities such as new routes and social events.

CAWA is a non-profit association established to support the WA climbing community. Its committee consists of a group of volunteers; which includes publication of this Western Climber magazine.