



Western Climber News

ISSUE THREE

APRIL 2010

Presidents Couch

Happy Easter!

Our AGM took place in February and I am pleased to say that we have a full committee of enthusiastic climbers. This year, I am looking forward to the completion of projects such as the updated Perth Rock Climbing Guide and the re-introduction of social events.

Our first social evening will be a slide show and talk about living and climbing in Oman, by Ross Weiter, on Wednesday 26 May.

The most recent CAWA trip to Mt Frankland saw a good turnout and much better weather than last year.

Journeys were made to a variety of destinations at Easter, including Eaglestone Rock, where the flies are eagerly awaiting your arrival so they can feast upon every available millimetre of exposed skin. Thankfully, my trusty can of Rid was at the ready.

Final negotiations for access to Canning Dam quarry have been completed. The next step will be some cleaning up by the land managers. As mentioned previously, there are a number of conditions that have been imposed upon us by the land managers and these will be published very shortly. However, the most important thing is that this will now provide us with some variation to our Perth climbing menu.

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Upcoming Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact</u>
April 15	Gym Crash— Rockface 63b John St, Northbridge	Phil Calais (phillipc@climberswa.asn.au)
April 25-26	CAWA Willyabrup Climbing Trip	Ashley List (ashleyl@climberswa.asn.au)
May 11	Gym Crash - The Hangout 12 White St, Bayswater	Brian Tan briant@climberswa.asn.au
May 26	Living and Climbing in Oman - Slide Show. Upstairs at Rosie O'Gradys in Northbridge	Ross Weiter (rossw@climberswa.asn.au)
May 29	UCC2 - Ultimate Climbing Competition at Rockface.	www.rockface.com.au (forums)
June 5-7	CAWA Kalbarri Climbing Trip	Ashley List



Kylie on
'Granitarium' (17)

*"We are indeed
blessed to be
living in this
amazing area of
Western
Australia..."*



Our intrepid CAWA
president, Dena at Mt
Frankland

Mt Frankland and March Flies

By Jolene Sheldon in consultation with Richard Haynes.

Only the most intrepid CAWA members braved the march flies and bull ants to attend this year's full frontal assault on the slabs of Mt Frankland. This year saw blue skies and hot temperatures in contrast to last year's rain and lightening. Here is the truth; dry slab is oh so much easier to climb than wet slab. Along those lines, sensei Ross had his ego pegged back a couple of grades as the two climbs he bolted last year, were so much easier when not dripping wet. Most climbers however concede that the requirement to shed steel during vicious lightening storms, significantly influenced the grading system in 2009. While the two climbs from 2009 were very enjoyable, it was the latest one just finished on this trip that really won my heart. Sure, I was already knackered. It felt like 32 degrees, but I can't be sure of the actual temperature. All I know is that I couldn't keep the chalk on my hands for the sweat, so I felt challenged to say the least. A mixed route, yet to be named or graded, I was fortunate to be the first to sample the taunts and delights that awaited after Ross and Dena had done the first climb. I felt honored.... dang, I gave it a solid 17 and in my heart named it "Grow a Pair", though I'm sure Ross will come up with a much more appropriate and genteel name. The climb is 3 pitches. I have to admit I only had time to lead the first pitch, but it is a ripper! Once I reached safety, I realised that I had thoroughly enjoyed the climb, and am looking forward to the lead when I am fresh and less distressed by heat stroke. I would give the first pitch 3 stars!

Ashley List, one of the newest committee members was in attendance. Recently transplanted from the U.K., he was heard to say, he is 'more of a crack whore than a slab master'. It was refreshing to get into some multi-pitch routes after all the local crags around Perth, which are sadly lacking in height.

Amenities were in Fernhook Falls campground. A lovely place which provided a pool for cooling down and cleaning up after a hard day of slab mastering. The intrepid group gathered for dinner Saturday evening to enjoy the camaraderie and healthy appetite that only a great day of climbing seems to inspire. The rum and coke/beer/wine, added to the comfortable happy-tired feeling and joviality at the tables.

As the sun rose the last day, members of the group were off to pursue other areas, and activities. We are indeed blessed to be living in this amazing area of Western Australia where we are constantly awed by the beauty of the surroundings we climb in.

New Bolted Routes at Mt Trio

Brothels of Baghdad 25m 20

Climb Hail Salathe past first two carrots, then head diagonally left towards left line of 6FH. Climb the steep face direct to ledge. 2RBB. Mark Thake August 2009.

Wormsley's Circus 22m 21

Start up Hail Salathe past two carrots, then trend left to right line of 5FH. Climb to ledge and 2RBB. Mark Thake August 2009

100 Climbs in 100 days



Remi leading RIP Corner (16) - The Gap, Albany Climbs in 100 days, a fundraiser (16) - raising event for Friends of Australian Rock Art (FARA) has added another dimension to climbing for a dozen of (mad) West Australian rock-climbers since the 1st of January 2010. The challenge aims to raise funds

to support FARA in its quest to achieve World Heritage Listing of the Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula) in Western Australia.

Most climbers who signed up in December 2009 started their challenge on the 1st of January at West Cape Howe during the annual CAWA Trip to Albany. Since then the climbers have been outdoors most weekends attempting to tick as many climbs as possible in a day. At the time of writing this article, it appeared clear that only a minority of the participants would complete their 100 climbs.

Dedication and time commitment was needed. We had to wake up at stupid hours and/or climb in extremely hot weather. While some forced themselves to climb despite sickness, others finished climbing at night with head torches! Along the way, we got bitten by ticks and mossies, attacked by bees, ants and kangaroos, and were even threatened by tiger snakes! One climber freaked out after his only protection fell off, at least two others took some serious falls, a few scared themselves on precarious run-outs while too many injured themselves (a knee, an ankle, a wrist and lots of finger tips). Toward the end of the challenge easy to moderate routes become difficult to find in the vicinity and we had to either climb harder

routes locally or explore new crags.

The intensity of climbing over the last 3 months has resulted in several climbers achieving their personal best grade. We've all got to know each other better and helped each other to achieve their goals. Climbing is fun and it is even more fun when it's done for a great cause! As of day 90, climbers have raised a total of \$2278. Donations are still open online until the 30th April 2010 and a presentation on the Burrup Peninsula will be given at Rockface on Sunday 2nd May 2010 from 6pm to 8pm. Participants will be rewarded with special prizes!

Come and congratulate the participants, get a better understanding of the rock art of the Burrup Peninsula and check out the best pictures from many crags visited during the 100 days!

Thank you to all who offered belays to the participants, sponsored them and understood their anti-social behaviours during the last 90 days!

Sponsor a climber today:

<http://sites.google.com/site/100climbs100days/sponsor>

(Donations are still open online until the 30th April 2010)

**Attend the presentation night:
Rockface
63b John Street
Northbridge WA**

Sunday 2nd May, 6-8pm



Register your interest for 2011 by sending your contact details to: climb@fara.com.au



Living and Climbing in Oman

By Ross Weiter

In the three years from 2004 to 2007 I was lucky enough to work, live and climb in the Sultanate of Oman. I must say that I headed over there with a bit of trepidation, expecting something of a hazardous backward outpost of civilisation at best. Let's face it; Hollywood does not portray Arabs as kind hearted people with an aptitude for fun! Instead of the cliché terrorist I found a warm welcoming people, and an open wild country where camping was permitted anywhere, and acres of unclimbed rock abound.

At first I was on my own climbing-wise, there was no climbing organisation or web site, and the guidebook was woefully out of date. Then I found Kim and Bill the two itinerant English teachers at the local Sultan Qaboos University,



Vincent at Vulture Rock

then Patrick and Natalie the two French guides who resided in Oman in winter and in France in summer, then Soren the Danish geo-engineer building a new runway at the local airport, and Vincent the Dutch oil reservoir engineer. They all climbed! I was saved!! We started a small circle of climbers, centred around the ridiculously tiny bouldering gym at the Muscat Diving and Adventure Centre (MDAC), where we had to move crates of stuff out of the way every Wednesday just to get access to the 8m of bouldering walls. We would then boulder our asses off on problems set by ourselves, much to the amusement of the head-to-toe black clad Omani chicks at the reception, who were not sure what to make of our cries of wanton triumph and swears of pointless desperation.

There was also the sea side bouldering, where we would hire a fisherman, and every day could do new highball problems above the almost warm sea. Often it would be so stinking hot that falling into water was more a welcome relief than an admission of failure. There were the wadi beds with their water-washed, smooth walls, covered with small pockets. And in Sharaf El Alameyn, I found the only place in Arabia where one could actually climb at the height of summer, due to its northern aspect and 2000m altitude. I put up the first 3 multi-pitch trad routes there.

Between Kim, Bill, Natalie, Patrick and I, we bolted some 100 new climbs in those 3 years in three major areas, and really opened Oman to sport climbing. My PDF guidebooks to Sharaf El Alameyn, Wadi Daykah, and Hadash can still be found on www.omancimbing.com. Of course life goes on and there are many new areas, guidebooks and climbs now.

Clearly, there is a lot more to Oman than climbing: namely religion, desert, camels, goats, castles, festivals, warm sea, great beaches, halwa, dates, markets, crowded roads, excellent super cheap restaurants and the friendly Omanis..... I will be giving a slide night upstairs at Rosy O'Grady's pub in Northbridge from 7:30 to 9pm on Wednesday 26th May, so if these stories sound interesting and you want to see some pics that are not on the internet as yet, come along! Salaam aleykum (peace upon you).

Contact us: www.climberswa.asn.au

Got feedback or some climbing wisdom to share? Send in your letters, articles and/or photos.

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