



WESTERN CLIMBER NEWS

ISSUE FOUR

JULY 2010

Canning Dam Quarry Access

CAWA is able to announce that we have finalised the access to Canning Dam Quarry. As discussed previously on the website, access will be for members only and during the initial 'trial' period, only for six weekends during that first year.

However, that's a great start! When originally approached by individuals, the land managers said they would not consider access. When approached by CAWA, the land managers were, after some initial resistance, willing to enter into negotiations and nearly two years later, this is the result. It demonstrates very clearly that a good working relationship between land managers and climbers is possible. DEC has been instrumental

in facilitating access and helping us to negotiate with the Water Corporation.

The quarry does not currently have any bolted routes and access to the top (such as at the other quarries) to set up ropes for other than for route setting will not be possible. At this stage it is anticipated that the routes in this quarry will require lower offs.

WC requires that all climbers and route setters are CAWA members and that CAWA is responsible for ensuring responsible use of the quarry. The way in which the quarry activities are managed will determine any future access beyond the one year trial period.

Any CAWA members interested in bolting routes in the quarry will need to apply to a bolting panel and be able to provide evidence of both experience and skill in this area. The bolting panel was formed at the last committee meeting and is formed by Dena Rao, Mark Weatherill and Megan Morris. Bear in mind that WC is requiring us to oversee this process. Bolting in the quarry must conform to the CAWA Bolting Guidelines.

Presidents Couch

As some of you may be aware our intrepid president is away at the moment and as such we won't have a 'presidents couch' this edition. As we speak Dena is in Chamonix, France where she is preparing her ascent of Mt Blanc.

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Upcoming Events

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	CONTACT
22nd July 2010	Gym Crash	Rockface	briant@climberswa.asn.au
10th August 2010	Gym Crash	The Hangout	briant@climberswa.asn.au
28/29th August 2010	Eaglestone Climbing Trip	Eaglestone Rock	rossw@climberswa.asn.au
15th September 2010	Knot Night	Rosie O'Grady's	phillipc@climberswa.asn.au
25-27th Sept 2010	Stirling Ranges Trip	Stirling Ranges	rossw@climberswa.asn.au

Ultimate Climbing Comp 2 by Ross Weiter

Yet another great climbing comp from the Rockface stable! Liana Morgan scooped the chix, Jay Girdestone the men and Pete the masters. For three hours the main competition was on, including bouldering, leading and speed climbing, with top roping an option for the newer climbers. Then it was time



Jay in the bouldering comp

for the pizza and dyno competition, followed by the bouldering finals. The effort of the day was Logan's lowball traverse, followed by a drop into a corner body stem, followed by a dyno to the finishing jug. Remi sprinted up the speed climb in 6 seconds flat – an incredible effort!

Thanks to all the Rockface staff, in particular to Gareth and Gerard for putting in days of work on the problems. There were no nasty moves, no sharp edges and

no greasy holds. Thanks to the sponsors, Rockface, MD's, Paddy Pallin's, Mainpeak and others, almost all competitors walked away with a bag of goodies or some kind of prize. Well done



Liana gracefully in motion

New Routes

STATHAMS—CENTRAL SLAB AREA

Ant Nation (27m, 16): Four or five bolts that snake up the smooth slab. Ring bolts at the top. FA: Phil Calais, Graham Lowental, Delphine Chabanne. March 2010.

Ant Attack (24m, 15): Four or five bolts straight up the middle of the slab. Ring bolts at the top. Phil Calais, Delphine Chabanne. March 2010.

Formicidae (24m, 15): Four bolts that meander up to the left and back to the right. End at the Ant Attack ring bolts. It's a bit run out at the top, but it's only about grade 8 and you can use nuts or cams if you like. FA: Phil Calais, Delphine Chabanne, Richard Wainright. March 2010.

Mt Cuthbert on a beautiful clear day



Why all the ant names? Climb it on a warm day and find out!

MT CUTHBERT

Fuzzy Bear (50m, 14): Start 5m left of "Beginner's Luck" and just right of the tree, then up past 8 fixed hangers. A tricky smear to start, then a well featured face to smooth black slab. Few crux smears, then easily to top. Bring 3 cams around #1 Camelot size for the belay at the top overlap. FA: Dena Rao, Ross Weiter. April 2010.

Hanger High (25m, 16): Left of "Eagles Lair", climb past 6 fixed hangers to lower off. Crux is the smooth slab half way up. FA: Ross Weiter, Dena Rao. April 2010.

Kalbarri Trip Report by Ashley List



Hawks Head "Mollasses"

Kalbarri is located 600km north of Perth and is quite the drive when you consider the usual climbing that can be found when heading south to Margaret River for a short weekend. The driving aside, the climbing is well worth the trip as long as you're feeling strong as many of the routes are steep and demanding.

There is a good range of both trad and sports routes, up to 120m high, ranging from grade 14 to 26+, if you're that skilled. The inclement weather nearly put an end to the trip, though a

few dedicated souls did make the journey. The multicultural group consisted of members from Spain, France, England and good old Australia.

The Friday was a bit too wet to climb; nevertheless most people went to scout out the climbing areas in the hope that the weather would improve, and with luck running our way, we were climbing the next day.

The majority of the first day was spent in and around the Tourist Wall while we waited for the rock to fully dry out. Top route of the wall would have to be *Keith Goes Blank* a 3 star climb, though I would recommend it as a 16/17, not 15 as it is in the guide book, as a novice leader at that grade would quickly find them self out of their depth. On the other hand *Telegraph Line* at the same area would be a good introduction to the wall for new leaders!

On the second day the morning was spent tuning up people's trad leading skill on the partly developed wall to the right of Tourist Wall. Later in the afternoon we started to migrate towards Adventure Wall and the Promenade area. The routes found in this lower area are somewhat steeper and more committing, though twice the fun!

There are a number of good face climbing routes in the area, with *Sports Climbing Ethics* and *Peanut Butter* wall being recommend, though I did not have the chance to climb them. As for warming up I would recommend 9-6=3.

Super Funk



Due to all of the excitement at being in the Kalbarri George for the first time, there was a minor miss read of the guide book, with various unnamed members starting what was initially thought to be a grade 15 route that turned out to be a 15m project! He he!

The Pros of the trip, Remi and Lecki, were making short work of the routes on the Promenade, with what seemed like most of the routes there being ticked.

On Monday morning we went scouting out Hawks Head. Though not as picturesque as the main gorge it's well worth spending the morning there on the way home. Given its position, it would catch the sun and dry quickly when rain makes an unwelcome visit to the area. The crag can be easily seen from the lookout (look right when facing the river) and is only a short walk.

Give time was sort and we were tired we only managed to crack two 14's, *Molasses* and *Hornets Nest*. Both good routes and tougher than they look. Think *Stanage Edge* in the Peak District, for those lucky enough to have climbed in the UK!

Would I recommend a trip to Kalbarri and Hawks Head? Hell yes! But I would recommend that you spend a good few months gaining strength and stamina as there is so much to do. If you can get the time spend a good week there.





Karabiner Care

Steve Morris from Rock Hardware talks about looking after your screw gates.

I am often asked if you can clean karabiners and if so, is there a safe method? My standard reply is rather conservative. Clean as little as possible and only when absolutely necessary. This basic principle applies to any climbing gear, including ropes and harnesses.

It is easy to use too much lubrication, which attracts dirt and may contaminate nylon slings. Petroleum based lubricants are to be avoided at all costs. Lubricants of choice are VWD40, which is fish oil based, or Inox. Remember to use them sparingly, only the smallest amount is required.

Squirting toothpaste into the hinge of a sticking gate aluminium karabiner and working it back and forth can help remove corrosion products and also lubricate the hinge area. Ensure that all the toothpaste is washed out with water.

Simply lubricating aluminium karabiners will not repair mechanical damage; however, it can help with corrosion. Aluminium corrosion products tend to be very bulky (chlorides, carbonates, oxides etc) and so all lubrication with an oil does is make the bulky corrosion product sticky. It needs to be removed as suggested above.

Steel karabiners are a totally different matter and a light lubrication is often all that is required. Always thoroughly air dry your karabiners after washing or the spring will corrode. The less that is done the better.

Regards Steve.

(NB. Thank you to Philip Toomer for teaching me this method)



Ashley Morris at Eaglestone Rock– a fantastic climbing location for those of you thinking of making the trip in August

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

If you have something you'd like included in the next newsletter email it to us by 25th September.

CAWA is the representative body of climbers in Western Australia. CAWA was formed in 1968, and incorporated in 1979. CAWA's purpose is to promote and develop climbing, especially in Western Australia; and protect and promote the interests of climbers in Western Australia.

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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