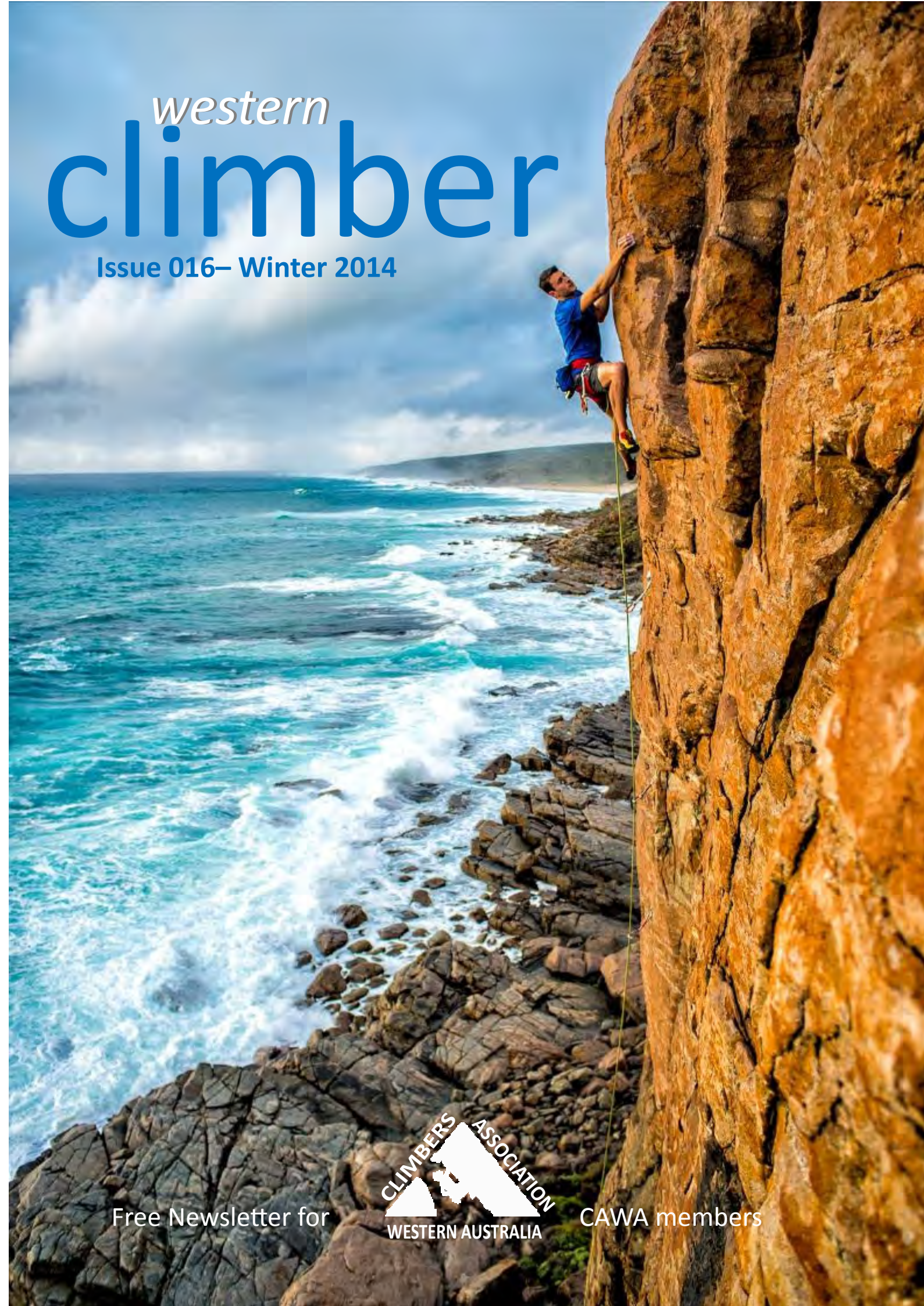


western climber

Issue 016— Winter 2014



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



*** GET INVOLVED WITH CAWA ***

We are always looking for volunteers and helping hands. Please contact cawa@climberswa.asn.au if you would like to get involved and contribute to the WA climbing community.

CAWA would appreciate being updated on crag access issues, as the Committee is unable to cover all the crags in Perth and WA. 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. You can also email the editor of the Western Climber as an alternative to posting on the forum at editor@climberswa.asn.au

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 that should be brought to the attention of the committee should be addressed to the CAWA Secretary.

The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or of the committee. The contents of this magazine are subject to copyright and are not to be reproduced without permission of CAWA.

Western Climber is the magazine of CAWA and relies on contributions from its members. All submissions are welcome! If you have any photographs or articles you would like to submit to the Western Climber, please send them with full details to editor@climberswa.asn.au.

For the next issue of Western Climber, all submissions must be made by 31st August 2014. 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 locations around the world as well as WA and most of all, people having fun climbing!

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warning

Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity. Please give careful consideration and seek expert training before attempting any climbing activities. Undertaking them without proper training, experience, skill, regard to safety, and equipment could result in serious injury or death.

Material included here is intended as a source of information only and has not necessarily been tested. No endorsement is implied by provision of this information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that this information is used only after appropriate professional instruction.

Message from the Editors

Editors: Mandy Bowler & Kate Swain Email: editor@climberswa.asn.au

A lot has been happening in WA over the last few months, numerous trips to Kalbarri has seen lots new routes, and a different perspective on the gorge, as seen in Brian Tan's article; Not Just the Promenade (page 10) and the New Routes section (page 40). Exciting news and a sneak peak at some of the WA photos by Simon Carter to be included in his new coffee table book: Rock Climbing Down Under: Australia Exposed, of which we at the Western Climber were lucky enough to be sent! Check out Simon's website and facebook page for the latest info (pages 24-29). Some travelling by CAWA members (and an ex-Western Climber editor) for the annual Easter pilgrimage to Peak Charles reminds us what a diversity of

climbing (and epic adventures) we have in this state. Further afield (avoiding epics where possible) a memorable route in the Sierra Nevada mountain range in California is vividly recounted, and closer to home, Mount Buffalo National Park shows us what a range of granite adventures there are to be had interstate. This is nicely capped off by a timely reminder of the usefulness and preparation needed for some of these adventures, through self rescue, portrayed in the "HELP! Please don't rescue me! Notes from the CAWA-subsidised Rescue Course" on page 36. We hope you enjoy this edition, and if you have any feedback, questions, articles or photos, we'd love to hear from you!

Editors, Western Climber

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Cover photo:

Jack Masel, leading the classic Dessert (25) above a moody sea on the Northern Butte, Wilyabrup.

Photo by Simon Carter

President's Report



I've just returned from my second Kalbarri trip of the season. We are lucky to have such a beautiful and unique place to climb. As much as I like sport routes, especially on sandstone, I do find that I get a lot more satisfaction from trad climbing. And Kalbarri offers both. I probably should have been an engineer, because I really enjoy the spatial awareness and problem solving aspect of trad leading. One challenge I have yet to overcome though, is finding a helmet that is both comfortable and stylish. I have a ridiculously small head, so most don't fit me. While everyone else is upgrading to the newest, lightest, most flattering creations, I'm still wearing a Black Diamond Half Dome, which refuses to stay in position and is only just small enough. Sexy is definitely not the first word that comes to mind.

My first four months back on the committee have been extremely busy. The new toilet sitting on the floor of my spare room, waiting to be installed, is proof of that. The old one broke and now, much like my poor knees, requires gentle encouragement and soothing words to perform its duties.

Gym crashes have been well attended so far this year and we've had a couple of great trips to Peak Charles and Kalbarri where I managed to respectively crack ribs and rediscover Stone's Green Ginger Wine (totally unrelated, of course). Gym outings have been scheduled to try and take advantage of ambient conditions and avoid the bonus sauna experience in summer. Gourmet pizza seems to have gone down well, judging by the speed at which it disappeared. The next trip on the calendar will be Eaglestone Rock at the end of August. I am determined to get to Mt Frankland, so keep an eye out for this one on the September 2014 and March 2015 long weekends. There will be a weekend at Wilyabrup sometime in November. We are keen to run the Wellington Dam outing once the weather stabilises later in the year too. Accommodation has been booked for the Christmas – New Year trip to Albany, which will also allow good access to other popular spots such as The Porongurups and Stirling Ranges.

The rescue and first aid course held in June was enjoyed by all – except perhaps Mark, who may be scarred for life after I 'rescued' him off a cliff. So excited about being saved, he quickly discovered that a contact rescue was less like a well choreographed dance and more like trying to get to the bar at a nightclub packed with drunk women.

In addition to the more obvious CAWA events, there is always a lot more happening behind the scenes. I have been regularly engaging with the land managers, in order to continue building on the solid foundations laid during my previous time on the committee, as well as address issues that have arisen around accidents, bolting and access to areas such as Esperance (more on this later in the year). I am currently working on a submission for the Kalbarri National Park Draft Management Plan, not because there is any threat to climbing activities in the park but to ensure that this continues to be the case. It is imperative that we continue to make our presence felt as a major stakeholder in park management.

It is important for climbers to understand that the management of public land is changing. For example, increasing involvement of the traditional land owners. Rather than being reactive to issues that may arise, I am being proactive in exploring these changes and looking at ways that we can try to work with the land managers to prevent them occurring in the first place.

Always looking for new approaches and ideas, we have recently been discussing ways to try and address the

issue of beginner climbers feeling intimidated by the old crusty ones. Though I'm a firm believer in taking personal responsibility, we need to strike a balance between self help and support. Why? Because today's beginners are tomorrow's leaders, in more ways than one. We need to ensure that we have climbers coming through the ranks who have a solid understanding of climbing in WA, plenty of experience climbing outdoors and can take over the running of the association in the future. As the state's peak body for climbing, this is critical. The challenge is that this requires a generosity of spirit that flies in the face of what is a predominantly selfish sport. Perhaps this will ultimately be our undoing in the future. Who knows? But it is food for thought.

In an attempt to try and break down some of the barriers, perceived or real, we intend to run a couple of gym crashes with a focus on beginner participation, where we hope that more experienced climbers will come along and share some of their skills and knowledge. Later in the year, we will organise a get together that will focus purely on basic climbing techniques. Even though this will be pitched at beginners, all are welcome to come along and brush up on their footwork. There is always something new to learn. One of the things that I enjoy about climbing is that my technique continues to improve and evolve. Speaking of which, we are also investigating suitable coaches to conduct some formal climbing clinics for us.

When things warm up a bit later in the year, we hope to run a climbing themed wine and cheese night. We are keen to hold this in a nice garden setting with an undercover area, so if anyone has a suitable backyard they would be willing to volunteer, we would love to hear from you.

I'm off to Canada shortly, mainly to eat maple syrup. My second goal is to stock up on Arc'teryx. Or maybe I should just see if they'll give me a job, given that I'm their number one fan. After that, I might do some mountaineering and climbing. On my return, I look forward to catching up with some of you at the CAWA Winter Dinner at the end of August. Join us for some great food and a cosy evening by the fire.

Dena Rao
CAWA President



Left: The President starting out on a trad adventure, Kalbarri.
Photo: Alice Bockett

Centre (and previous page): Dena putting her skills to the test on another trad lead in Kalbarri.
Photo: Remi Vignals

Below right: Dena leading the Rattler (22) in the Promenade.
Photo: Alice Bockett

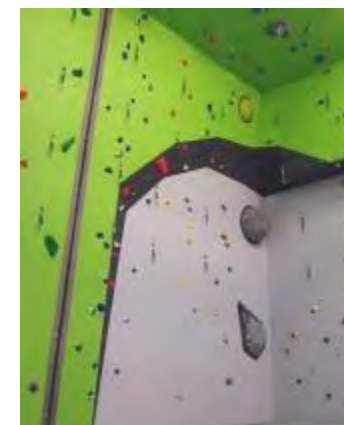


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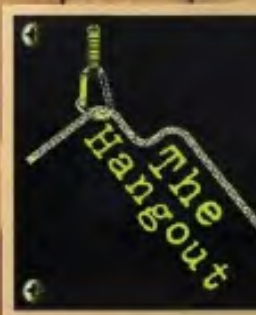
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MORE THAN JUST THE PROMENADE

Author: Brian Tan | Photos: Brain Tan and others

View of the Gorge | Photo: Aurélien Delume

The WA Day Long Weekend marked the start of the Kalbarri season.

With the annual CAWA trip on, our small party (Gesa, Delphine, Remi, Aurélien and Emmeline) joined in and camped at the Kalbarri Tudor Holiday Park. I must admit that I didn't have great memories of the Holiday Park as the last time we were there, it rained and the road into the National Park ended up being closed. There was too much time sheltering under the tarp for my liking.

The weather gods were on our side this time around, the skies looked clear and a great weekend of climbing was in store. The upgraded road into the National Park is great, and it would have been even better if it ran all the way to

the Z-bend lookout but I guess state funding only goes so far.

As is the nature of Kalbarri trips, everyone sort of does their own thing. We informally decided that for this trip we would visit a few of the different areas rather than getting caught up in the Promenade as per previous trips. Plus it was Aurélien and Emmeline's first time to Kalbarri and being newer to climbing it was nice for them to see a bit more of the gorge.

The first day saw us trooping into Four Ways after a bit of a late start. There were river crossing shenanigans (this involved removal of shoes, socks and in some cases trousers) and some general exploring to get our bearings .



Remi run out and on crimps on a 16!?!?

Photo: Brian Tan

We decided to start with a few trad climbs at the Mad Cow Wall - Mad Cows and Englishmen (13) and Face Off (16) to warm up. There was definitely a bit more of an adventurous aspect to the climbs, than the Promenade, and we were reminded about potential hazards with holds snapping, a bit of choss about and suspect route descriptions. However, we did our bit and cleared some precarious looking loose rubble for future climbers (and belayers) visiting the wall.

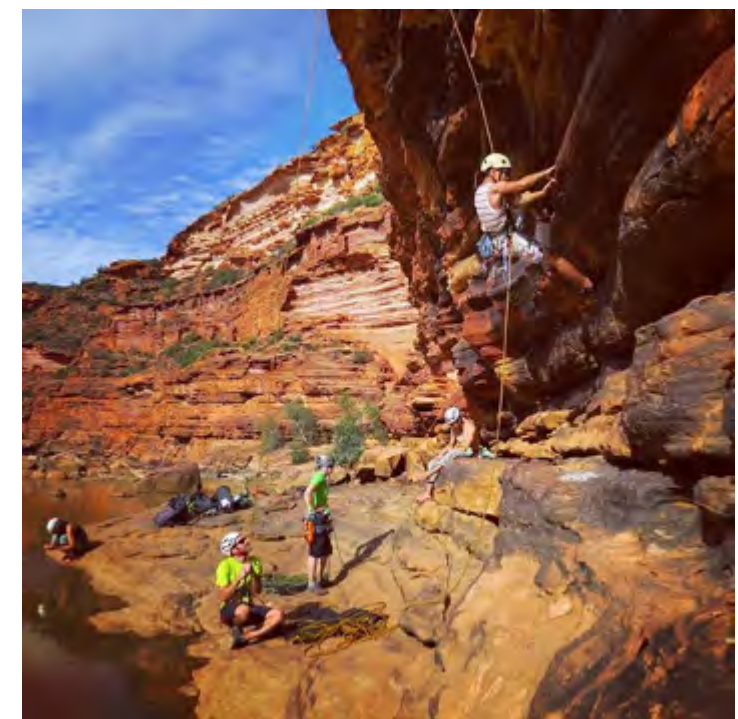
The climbs end in roughly the same area, as per quite a few occasions with trad anchors the last person has to clean the anchors and then make their way to the down on foot rather than being lowered or rappelling. The documented descent off the climb is interesting as there is a jump down across a "small gap" before being able to get back to ground level, I was glad that only one of us had to do it and even more glad that Remi cleared it perfectly.

Next we moved around the corner to the Colloseum, where we got to experience some of the "smack in the face Kalbarri steepness" with It's Not Rocket Surgery (26). For a climb that is apparently only 16 meters, there's enough in it to make it feel much longer. The starting slab up delicate slopers of sand was unsettling and then just

when you're glad that you're at a solid band of rock, the angle changes and you're onto the steep stuff. Chuck in a slap to a very sharp lip and an exciting mantle and it's a definite must do. To preserve the rope from being cut due to the razor sharp edge near the end the recommendation is to back-jump from the anchors onto the last draw rather than to get lowered down. Pretty exhilarating stuff!!!

We did find that it was easier to clean on second and this could be done with a top belay and a bit of careful rigging to allow the belayer to be slightly further down to avoid the rope running over the sharp edge.

On the second day we made it out to the Z-Bend and the Black Wall was the call of the day. There was yet another river crossing, this time we stayed mostly dry except for a missed step that ended with Delphine having one wet sock and shoe combo.



Warm day on the Black Wall.

Photo: Emmeline Audic

We started with a few unlisted trad climbs (possible FA's) which consisted of an easy chimney and a bit of a tougher face climb (that saw Remi wishing he remembered his chalk bag). The Black Wall is pretty exposed so with the sun out it did start to get warm pretty quickly .

We quickly moved onto two nearby sports routes - Tripped Up (24) and Rippled Reflection (25). Both routes have interesting starts with Rippled Reflection needing a bit more boulder power at the start for a committing second clip. Remi was reportedly upside down at one stage from not hitting the sequence right. It should be noted that both climbs finish on single bolts, we decided to set some trad anchors to allow for top roping as this was much more social than just putting everyone on the sharp-end. There is



Remi catching some air on the back-jump on It's Not Rocket Surgery | [Photo: Brian](#)



Aurélien working the chimney on Santa's Holiday
[Photo: Emmeline Audic](#)

an okay walk-off option at the top of the climbs for cleaning the gear.

This was a slightly shorter approach, although the choice of climbs was a bit more limited. I had an enjoyable time on trad up Wombat Amnesia (15) to set it up as a top rope for Aurélien and Emmeline. Meanwhile Remi and Gesa jumped on Camp X (22) which is on an overhanging arête and contained one or two uncomfortably sharp holds...it was definitely a bit rougher as a warm-up.

I finished up the trip with a decent battle attempting to onsight Phantom (25) which didn't have any visible chalk and also some crumbly rock, however there were some quality moves and an all-mighty pump inducing finish that made it worthwhile. Aurélien did some bouldering across on the other side of the gorge where there was a mostly sandy landing which mostly negated the need for a boulder pad.



Brian's battle with Phantom
[Photo: Remi Vignals](#)

After a spot of lunch and keeping ourselves entertained by overtaking tourists on the hike out, we were back on the road to Perth...with a few stops for some push-ups as penance and some fish and chips in Jurien Bay as reward for a great long weekend

Kalbarri, it's 6 hours away from Perth and seems like a different time and place. It's easy to get stuck at the Promenade with the climbing on offer there, but this trip was a great reminder that there is also a lot more on offer around the corner.



Back-jump and dynamic belay sequence. | [Photos: Gesa Graser](#)

A photograph of a steep, rocky mountain peak. The rock face is light-colored with vertical fissures and shadows. A hiker in a blue jacket and dark pants is visible on a rocky path in the lower left foreground. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

HOOKED IN THE HIGH SIERRAS

By Kate Swain

Neil Gledhill approaching Mount Russel, High Sierras, California.
| Photo: Kate Swain

“Bordered by a great agricultural area on one side and an inhospitable desert on the other, California’s Sierra Nevada is the highest mountain range in the contiguous United States, and some say the most beautiful.”

In July 2007 Neil and I found ourselves in Bishop, California, in 40°C+. The record-breaking heatwave saw us looking for air-conditioning in the local climbing store and searching for a few other climbing options to the Owens River Gorge and Bishop bouldering that we'd planned. Flicking through all the shiny new guidebooks is how we discovered the High Sierras.

The Sierra Nevada is a mountain range that runs for 640 km north to south, primarily located in California. It sports some of the highest peaks in the lower 48 states of America, including the highest: Mount Whitney, which stands at 14,505 ft (4,421 m), and 11 others that rise above 14,000 ft, and all accessible within a few hours drive of Bishop. The rock is a white-grey granite and the guidebook flaunted photos of clean rock, a bit of snow (which was hard to imagine in the heat) and the introduction really sold it to us:

“Bordered by a great agricultural area on one side and an inhospitable desert on the other, California’s Sierra Nevada is the highest mountain range in the contiguous United States, and some say the most beautiful. It has almost everything a climber desires: rugged peaks, glaciers, and splendid, isolated chunks of granite. All these attractions are set in a lovely locale of lake basins, streams and high meadows. The rock is generally good, the weather during the summer months is excellent, and the access is easy. What more could a climber want?”

Nothing. This is what we were looking for! That summer we climbed a few routes in Tuolumne Meadows, (part of the Yosemite National Park) climbing at above 10,000 feet. Then, once acclimatised, we tackled The East Buttress of Mount Whitney; it was one of the absolute highlights of our trip, and we were sad that we hadn't discovered the great climbing earlier. The access wasn't exactly 'easy' for two climbers from sea level, but we managed the 8,400 ft to the top and back in 11.5 hrs, and the views, the line and the rock was just what we'd been promised. After that we vowed we'd be back. And now we were, 7 years later.



Neil relaxing on a pitch 6, not yet realising what he's relaxing on | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)

This time we arrived in mid-August, and specifically targeted the Sierras, driving up and down the eastern side on U.S. 395 and plucking the jewels in the crown of the mountain range. Our plan was to only do one-day ascents. This meant a lot of hiking, but also meant we did a lot more climbing. We managed The West Ridge of Mount Conness, a 12 pitch 5.6 with a 13 km hike in 10 hrs car to car; Venusian Blind on Temple Crag, a 13 pitch 5.7 up a mountainous chosspile with spectacular ridgelines and a mild 22.5 km of hiking in 11.5 hrs car to car; Red Dihedral on the Incredible Hulk, a 12 pitch 5.10b, with a 16 km long, 1,000 m elevation gain approach, leading to some sustained and interesting climbing on great rock, in 13.5 hrs car to car; and my outstanding favourite, the Fishhook Arete on Mount Russel (700 ft, 8 pitch, 5.9; 4hr approach from 8,400 ft to 13,400 ft).

Mount Russel stands as a sister peak to Mount Whitney, showcasing a striking staircase arête in a giant J, shaped just as the name suggests, a fishhook arete. This arête is clearly visible from the East Buttress of Mt Whitney, and Neil and I had commented on its striking line in 2007. The summit stands at just over 14,000 ft, and the access is the similar to that of the routes on Mount Whitney, though another 45 mins to an hour further. Most people climbing in the area hike to Iceberg Lake, at the base of Mt Whitney, and camp, climbing their chosen route early the next morning to avoid being on the mountain during any unpredictable afternoon thunderstorms.

To get around this, and only because we'd done the hike before, Neil and I got an alpine start and left in the dark. The trail up is awkward and difficult in places, and it's easy to get off route early on at a the Ebersbacher ledges, where the terrain draws you in up a loose gully, and traversing out onto the exposed rocky ledges looks unlikely to be passable. You need to be prepared for scrambling and a little exposure, even in the dark. This spits you out at Lower Boy Scout Lake, and the rest is relatively straight forward, though long and tiring, breathing hard even at this 3,000 m altitude. Water and Panadol are your friend when it comes to altitude headaches.



Left: The final 'short but hard' section on the way to the summit | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)
Top right: Summiting altitude | [Photo: Neil Gledhill](#). Bottom right: Happy summiteers | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)

Water is easy, with several alpine lakes along the way offering crystal clear, frigid glacier melt. We still treated the top-ups, but it meant that we didn't have to carry so much weight on our slog uphill.

The climbing starts with the crux pitch, a 5.9 discontinuous crack system up the curtain skirt of the ridge to get established on the ridgeline proper. Some funky, three dimensional climbing follows, which felt like climbing around and between leaning fridges and it reminded me a bit of the start of Flight of the Phoenix in the Warrambungles. The Supertopo guidebook describes this pitch as "5.9 many options". Some ridgetop scrambling, an exciting downclimb finds you at the bottom of the long, vertical part of the ridge which leads straight up to the summit. It is fairly easy climbing from here, and there are many, many options, which was almost the best part of the route. You got to choose where you went, route finding was a personal choice, and fairly straight forward. You just followed your nose.

I really enjoyed this route as it had it all: a long, obvious line, continuously interesting climbing, the climbing was fairly steady, the rock was mostly solid, the scenery stunning, and it took you to the top of a high summit. It also wasn't crowded like the routes in the European Alps (see 'The Piz Badile' Western Climber April 2013). The real icing on the cake though was the descent. The alternate 'easy' route to the summit was via the third class East Ridge. This was long, exposed, slightly loose, spectacular, and quite exciting to descend.

Of all the routes we did that trip, including the Regular Route on Fairview Dome in Tuolumne Meadows, ever popular due to it being included in the "Fifty Classic Climbs of North America", which was very good, Fishhook Arête still stands out as my favourite. So if you're wondering where to go for a holiday during a cold, wet, Perth winter, and have done all the routes on Bluff Knoll, consider the High Sierras. Other highly recommended routes are Matthes Crest and the Southeast Buttress of Cathedral Peak.



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Easter at Peak Charles



By Conrad Slee

Chris Swain had propositioned me the week before at The Hangout, looking for a travel and climbing partner. He advised that CAWA had put interested parties in contact with one another, resulting in two more people joining us in his Prado.

We planned to leave on Good Friday morning, to avoid driving at night, so I arrived at Chris's home at around 07:45, keen to park my Subaru Outback in his garage out of the weather for the next four days. A few minutes later a new red Porsche convertible rolled up the driveway, engine humming with the two climbers enjoying the morning sun and wind in their hair. It seemed practical that perhaps the Porsche might be better placed in the garage (rather than the Subaru). The bonnet was popped on the red machine, revealing a box-like compartment holding climbing and camping gear, with a few additional items in an even smaller space in the boot, behind the engine and space for the fold-down roof. Joe Albahari, the owner of the vehicle, had Alex Gap as his passenger, a Canadian (Kanook) from just outside of Toronto in Oz for just a few weeks with his work. Alex was travelling light, as an opportunistic trip tends to afford.

Gear packed, we hit the road around 08:30, and we were glad to find all road and track conditions were good as there had been no significant rain for months. Arriving at the newly renovated Peak Charles campsite at 17:00, we had a half-hour head start to claim the last designated spot at the campground, before another three vehicles rolled-in. For the first time ever in my experience, the place was packed-out with general tourists, all directed there apparently by the regional district office of the newly renamed Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW).

The so-called 'Great Western Woodlands' are being promoted, and DPaW has few campgrounds to send people to. The campground has been upgraded from the relatively simple facilities that appealed to many climbers. Many fire rings, pine rail fence camp spots, disabled access toilets, rainwater tank, additional signage and information/shelters plus crushed rock roadways. It is all a bit different and I'm not sure for the better.

We topped-out onto the summit terraces around 14:45 and took a late snack break. Joe and I then decided to rappel down the route 'Birthday Party' to collect our additional bag and shoes, and then climbed back up the route (18, 3 pitches), with myself leading the first pitch. Joe com-



Joe was carrying the second rope in the backpack, along

Alex and Chris had already eaten by the time we arrived



That route is a nice climb that follows an obvious line, with a characteristic Z-shape of cracks and flakes above a bushy terrace, requiring long runners and/or double ropes to minimise drag. Judging by some photos seen later, it looked like it was tackled well by this party. This is the spot where, in 2005, I was struck by lightning when a sudden storm covered the peak from the west, unable to be seen

The route is grade 17, around 7 pitches (roughly 340 metres including around an additional unroped two pitches, 120 metres or so). Rock quality is generally good, and the features are fine. The crux is the first pitch, just before where the gear starts to run out. The rest of the climb is



I stalled a bit at the crux on the first pitch, as I was climbing in my Boreal Aces, which are a classic all-day shoe, but not that great on tiny edges or features. I regained some composure, and with calves starting to burn, I committed to some slightly sketchy moves. My gear was good, with two or three good pieces below me and pretty much no risk of a deck out. Once through the crux, I finished the pitch and the plan then was to follow the line of least resistance up the rest of the rock face, while sticking to the route. The second pitch went quickly and the third pitch follows a leftward trending overlap/overhang layback corner of a manageable grade. The rest of the route went fairly straight forward, and finishing the technically difficult



Conrad and Joe on Last Tango in Widgeemooltha (16) | Photo courtesy of a birdwatcher. Below: Conrad Slee on a rising traverse on Pitch 3 of Conquistadore (grade 15, 196 m) Karakorum Gully area | Photo by Joe Albahari

cult climbing, we coiled the rope and made our way up the last 120 m or so, with climbing shoes and helmets on for safety, to gain the summit cairn and compulsory photo. We had voice communication available, which made things easier. However, Alex and Chris had again raced ahead of us, with us losing sight of them above the third pitch and them summiting around 14:30.

Joe and I summited around 15:45, had a snack then set up an anchor above Ryobi One Kanobi (16) on the Summit Terraces just below the cairn area. We planned to descend down the rabbit hole on the Bath Bluffs side and take the long route down, so we needed to be off the climb by 17:15, meaning a fairly quick turnaround. Joe led, and searched around for a while at the slightly overhanging crux only to find the horizontal crimp holds to crank off. They were not much to his liking, but he found a way up, and I was up shortly after. Time was of the essence and the light was fading in the cloudy, overcast grey sky. We cleaned the anchor and bagged the rope and did a minimal piling of gear.

Descending down the Bath Bluffs on the north-western side of the peak, we rapped down a 10 metre drop. The light had faded again, so with headlamps attached to our helmets, we entered the blocky chasm that is known as



the Rabbit Hole, now very familiar to me, as I've been through it perhaps a dozen times. With all the extra gear it was a bit more arduous, but we got through. My headlamp was getting a bit dim, and as we exited this rocky chasm system, it was perhaps 18:15. It was dark by now. I estimated that we could be back at camp by 19:30.

However, the descent was slow as we got waylaid, and ended up thrashing through thick bush below some slabs, then following what I thought was the final low ridge, until I spotted a small cairn. What was significant about this cairn, was that it was the same one that I had seen coming up from the creek to Karakorum Wall the same morning, and had added an extra rock to the top. I immediately knew that we were off route. However, I knew where we were. So eventually after more bush bashing, much to my relief, the lights from camp came into view, which I was glad to be able to present to Joe. We descended perfectly onto the old climbers' trail down through the sheoaks and into camp, replying "we are just having a late one" as we passed some random campers nearby when they asked us if we were lost.

We greeted Chris and Alex and Chris put on a pot of water to boil and offered me tea, which I gladly accepted. I then raised my right hand for a high-five from Joe, which he obliged, with me stating to him "Peak Charles epic: Achieved!" Now Chris raised the point that perhaps it is not an epic if you return just after dark and don't get be-

nighted, but anyhow, it was around 8:30 p.m. and a much later return that I am used to, and more off-route wandering to boot. We were glad to be back. I broke out some Lindt chocolate to celebrate while we got some dinner sorted.

Afterwards we enjoyed the warmth of a campfire using some of the wood made available by other campers. It was strange to see three separate campfires burning in such close proximity, all unattended, when 'back in the day' a single campfire would bring people together.

On Monday morning, following a rise at about 07:00, we had a leisurely breakfast, and resigned ourselves to not getting a climb in before departure. I would have liked to have gone up Juluka (19, 3 pitches). Instead we had a light shower of rain around 9:30 am occurring as I was packing up my tent.

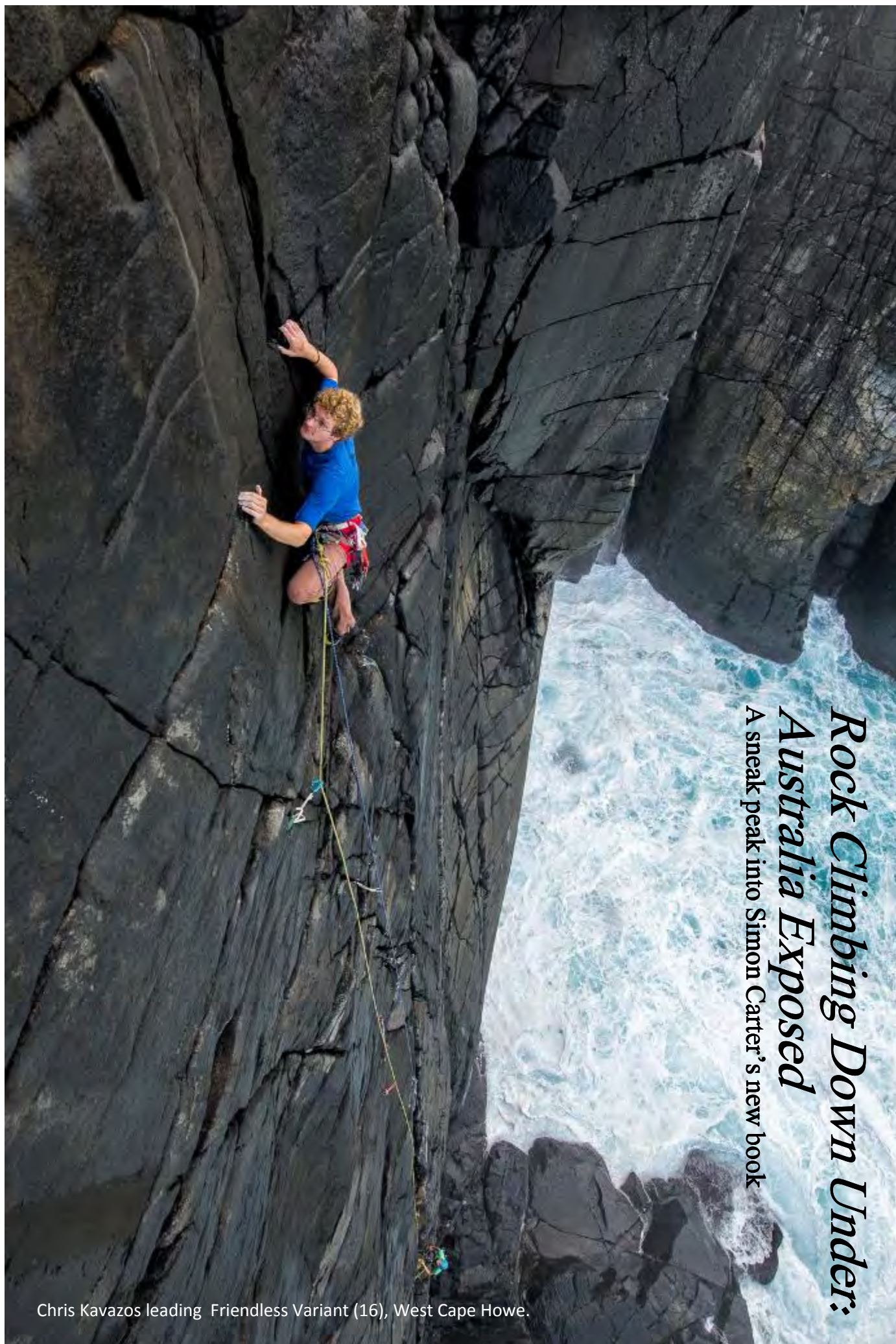
We took the same road home, and with a safe arrival back in Perth, we exchanged thanks and handshakes, and we gave Chris money for fuel and kind use of his car. Photos from the great weekend away were swapped later, to remind us of what another great trip we'd had to Peak Charles over Easter.



Conrad (left) and Joe (right) at the summit cairn | Photo: Conrad Slee collection



Jack Masel leading Dessert (25), Northern Butress, Williyabrup | Photo: Simon Carter



Chris Kavazos leading Friendless Variant (16), West Cape Howe.



The highly recognisable photography of Simon Carter will once again be gracing our coffee tables with another celebration of Australian climbing. Coming soon is 'Rock Climbing Down Under: Australia Exposed', a journey, passion and excuse for Simon to travel around this great continent taking photos of the stunning landscapes that we climbers love to play on. In two trips since his original photo shoots in 1998, Simon returned, first with wife Monique Forrester and adorable daughter Coco, shooting climbing at Kalbarri gorge, featured in Western Climber Summer 2013-2014. He returned again in May of this year, this time focusing on the Albany and Margaret River areas. We've been fortunate here at Western Climber to be given a sneak peak into some of the photo shoots that he did here, which grace the following pages.

If you're not familiar with Simon's work check out his website: www.onsightphotography.com.au

To keep up to date with Simon's work, trips and just generally get inspired, make sure you subscribe to Simon's email newsletter on his website (<http://www.onsight.com.au/subscribe/>) or follow him on Facebook (Simon Carter's Onsight Photography) (<https://www.facebook.com/OnsightPhotoSC>).

Apart from his climbing equipment sponsors Sterling Rope, La Sportiva and Julbo, also check out his involvement with Goal Zero (<http://goalzero.com.au/>)

Centre right: (L to R) Ali Chapman, Alice Bockett, Ashlee Peeters and Adam Straw at West Cape Howe.

Bottom right: Adam Straw leading pitch 2 of Training For Bigwalls (19), West Cape Howe.





Left: Inalee Jahn on Stainless Steel (21), Wilyabrup.

Bottom left: Inalee Jahn on Stainless Steel (21), Wilyabrup.

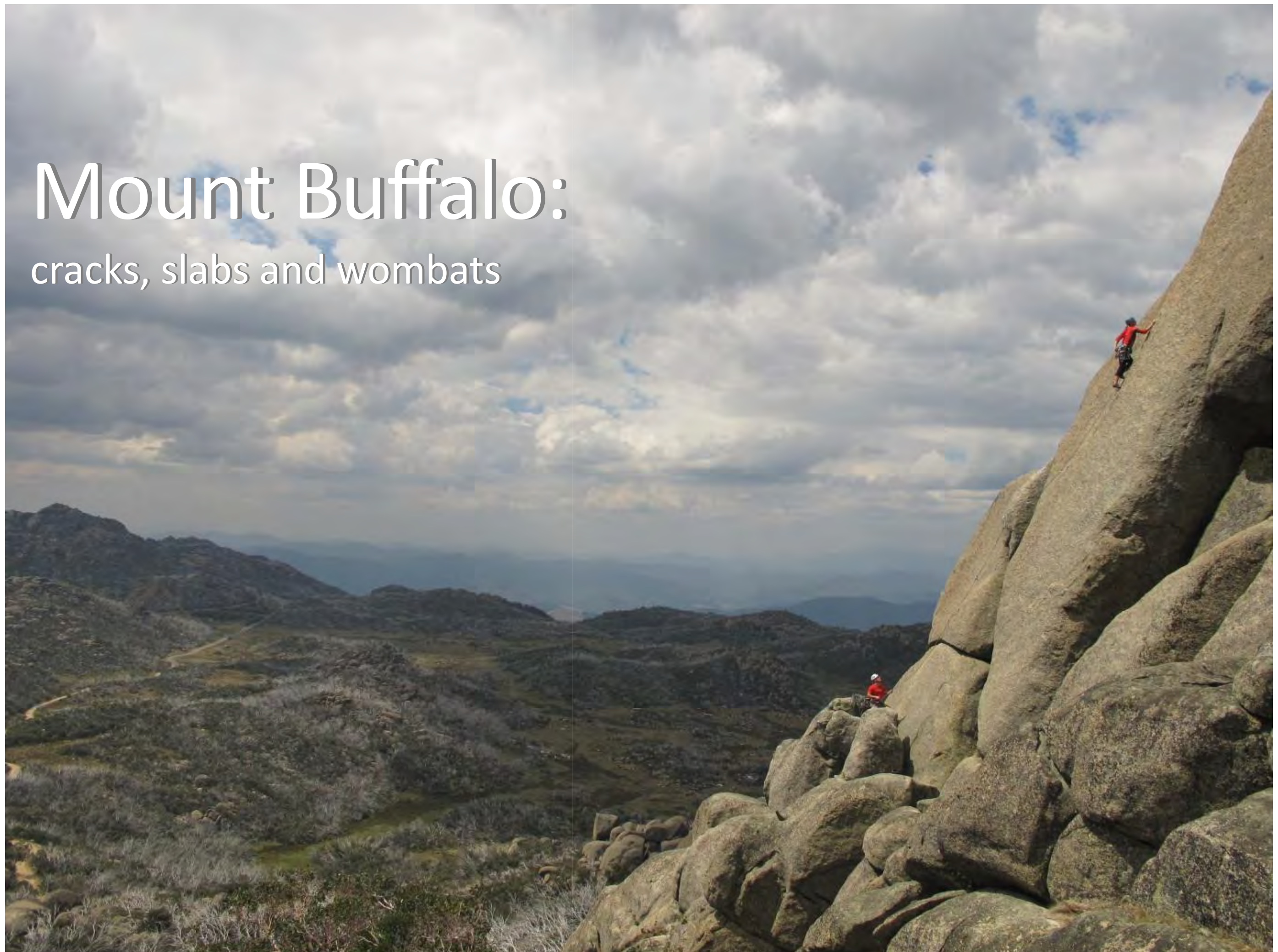
Bottom centre: Jack Masel on Blow Job (24), Wilyabrup.

Bottom right: Jack Masel leading out on the Northern Buttress, Wilyabrup.



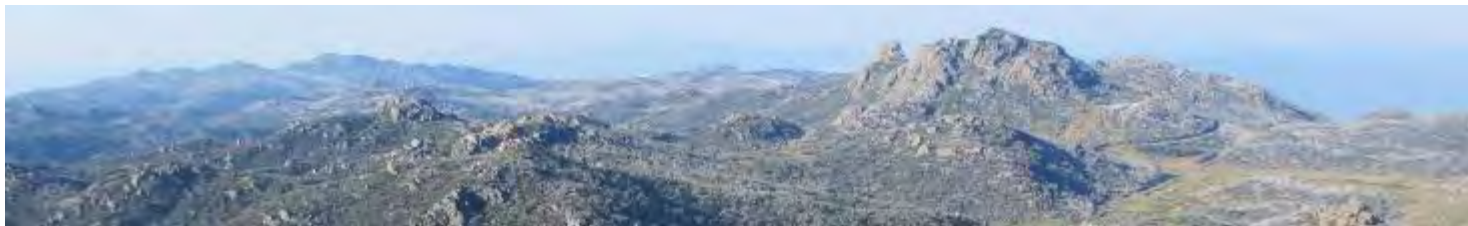
Mount Buffalo:

cracks, slabs and wombats



Kate Swain leading out on Big Fun
(15j) at the Hump. Belayed by
Mark Wood

Photo: Neil Gledhill



“Teapot! Do a teapot!” I was being instructed by Neil the photographer perched high on an exposed granite boulder over to my right. So I promptly complied. Teapot it was. I casually chalked up and waited for a couple seconds while Neil took the picture, then went back to focusing on the slabby, holdless route I was on.

The granite felt rough and sticky beneath my re-soled Anasazi Velcros, but I still felt wobbly on the exposed, rounded arête of Big Fun, only grade 15(!) at Mount Buffalo. It was a gorgeous day, a slight cool breeze, a bit cloudy, cool temperatures, and mostly quiet. It was day two of a 7 day trip to the Buff, and I was slowly getting my head back into sticky friction climbing. ‘Trust it till you fall off’ I kept telling myself, and of course my feet didn’t slide. It’s all a state of mind. And so too are the grades. This 15 felt about the same grade as the 19 we’d top roped earlier, but I was yet to decide if that meant that the 15 was hard or the 19 was easy. Such is the world of friction, and the granite here had plenty of it!

We’d ended up here after we’d been invited over for a party in Melbourne, and decided to stay for the week to climb at Mount Buffalo. Located 450 km due north of Melbourne in the Australian Alps, we’d heard mixed reviews. I’d climbed there once before, although almost 10 years prior and only for 2 days, so I’d decided that didn’t really count because I couldn’t really remember what it was like... We’d heard Mount Buffalo had sharp granite, so crack climbing would be painful and shredding; and the bolted slabs had long runouts with exposure plus, so the slab climbs would be ridiculously scary and intimidating, no matter what the grade. We came prepared with low expectations so that we wouldn’t be too disappointed. All except for the wombats. Mount Buffalo apparently had them, and sugar gliders, and lyre birds! So the park had a few redeeming features.

In fact, the park had more redeeming features that we’d thought. Mount Buffalo is semi-alpine, at an elevated altitude of around 1,700 m. This meant that the temperatures during the day were quite pleasant, even though it was mid 30°C’s in the farmlands below, not to mention high 30°C’s in Perth. The climbing consists of a main gorge, some 700 m high routes on the North Wall, with amazing looking lines like Ozymandias, and Defender of the Faith. No routes on this vertical-to-overhanging North Wall look particularly easy, and neither does the access. The other (southern) side of the gorge is made up of a whole bunch of buttresses stacked on top of each other. Like someone had taken a whole bunch of cliffs and didn’t

know what to do with them, so gave them to their 3 year old to arrange. So it’s a bit hard to get your head around where some of the routes are. Plus some access is from the top, some from the middle and some the bottom. The angles are deceptive too. But we had the ultimate app: the Mark app (on trial run, planned to be released for iPhone and Android some time in the not-so-distant future). So we were sorted for a week of 3-star classics.

The other areas were grouped boulder and cliff outcrops that stuck up and out above the eucalyptus treeline on the plateau that made up most of the park. There was a rather elaborate lookout on top of the Horn (which could also handily be used as an anchor for descending off Peroxide Blond). Other main areas are the Cathedral and the Hump. The Horn actually looks like a horn, the Cathedral does look like its name sake, and funnily enough, so does the Hump.

Day 1 started at the Cathedral for the 3-star classic Maharaja. A supposedly 4-pitch grade 17; that is only 70 m long. You can do it in 2 pitches if you’re using 2 ropes and

‘Trust it till you fall off’ I kept telling myself, and of course my feet didn’t slide.

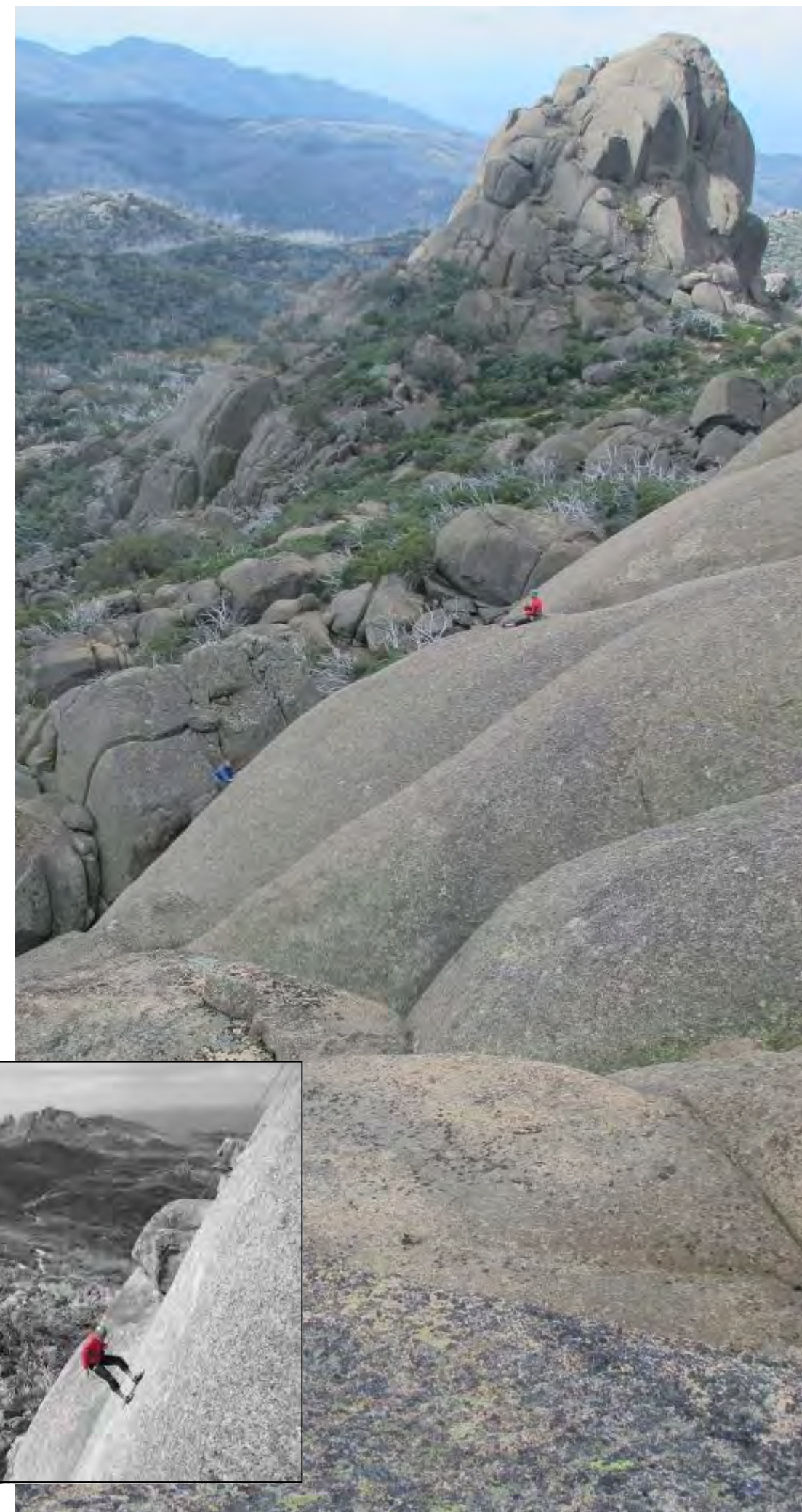
are clever with gear placements to reduce rope drag. The last pitch is an unprotected grade 16 slab pitch... which is 7 m long. This route has got some engaging climbing, and it was a nice warm up on gear. We also did Bloodnok, which would be okay if you aren’t a T-Rex and can reach the holds on the face to the right of the overhanging, limb-sucking fist-crack. After the initial overhang, it’s a very pleasant grade 17 finger crack, and quite good at the grade.

We ended the day on Sultan. A 4 pitch grade 20 that takes an riveting line up the centre of the main face of the Cathedral. The first pitch is the crux, and a no. 4 and a 5 camalot were my biggest assets on this pitch (small hands were not an advantage for once). You needed to plan carefully to avoid having bad rope drag from the start, and it has some exit moves I won’t be forgetting any time soon. The second pitch was the highlight though, despite the Sublime Climbs guide giving it a measly grade 14, expect something a bit harder! A wire ready to clip the carrot at the end is also handy if you’re a tad short on reach.

The Horn actually looks like a horn, the Cathedral does look like its name sake, and funnily enough, so does the Hump.

Right: Kate belaying Neil up Chickens in Choppers (19**) on the Hump, The Cathedral inspired outcrop in the background.
Photo: Mark Wood

Below: Kate being lowered past 4 rusty carrots to try the super funky Psychodrama (23)
Photo: Neil Gledhill



The third pitch has an awkward start, just like the guide-book says, but what follows made it one of my favourite pitches following a flakeline to the same final belay as Ma-haraja. Then you get to experience the final unprotected 7 m slab pitch all over again. Don't do these routes if it looks like it's going to rain, unless you have a very tall belayer with sturdy shoulders to stand on...

Day 2 was spent at the Horn doing some great (and well protected) routes. We managed 10 pitches including Big Fun and the Pintle, and got some fantastic photos. The highlight was top roping Psychodrama (23) which was an awesome climb, though the 4 rusty, and rather sorry-for-themselves-looking carrots could do with replacing, and maybe a couple more bolts too for sanity purposes. You really got a sense of the old ways here where bolts had to be hand drilled into the bullet hard granite. No wonder they were often few and far between.

Day 3 was a rest day. At this stage we hadn't seen any wombats yet. There were plenty of indicators that there were a few around, with presents of square grass poos seen fresh each day on the rocks in the middle of the paths, and the burrows and diggings scattered around the bush. But they were smart little fellows and didn't come out till after we'd gone to bed and went to bed before we got up in the morning. We needed a plan to see one.

That evening after a few cold beers, we decided that what we needed to do was sit in the open grass field next to Lake Catani adjacent to the camp site with a carrot. Accompanied by a bottle of wine, we treaded slightly uncere-moniously down the gravel road to the field and sat on the dew covered grass with a carrot, head torches off, and waited. And waited. And waited. Okay, we didn't wait that long, it got a bit cold and the wine was disappearing fast, but we did try. Twice we thought we saw movement and quickly switched on the head torches, only to find nothing but a grass field and a carrot. We still had 5 days to go, so we'd keep trying.

Over the next few days we found ourselves in all sorts of exploration situations, and we found ourselves really enjoying the climbing. It is varied, mostly sharp cracks, or slabby runout pitches, but there are some real pearlers. Beowulf (18) was excellent, a two star elegant corner crack, Banana Blasé (16) was a fun and great quality face



crack on the outer edge of the main gorge opposite the very impressive looking North Wall, and Home James (20) was an excellent face climb up a thin dyke feature below Banana Blasé.

We also got a bit blasé after the final rest day, after we saw heaps of wombats!! We'd headed out of the park and down to the flatlands to a friend's place for dinner. On the way home, around 10pm, we saw heaps of the little brown furry, Australian iconic creatures. We were delighted, but seeing them scuttle away from out of the headlights of the van a lot faster than their rotund shapes would suggest; I'm not sure the feeling was mutual. We had a good night, and that really topped off the trip.

The final climbing day saw us caught out on the legendary Where Angels Fear to Tread in a torrential rainstorm. We were about half way up the 230 m grade 17, and it just started to bucket down. The thick clouds had come over from behind the gorge, and caught us by surprise. With the crack forming into a 230m long waterfall, we hastily fixed an anchor, tied our two ropes together and rapped to the ground, in one long, rope-stretching (literally) pitch. We were drenched, I was the last down and was frozen and shivering, being wet and battered by a light breeze which uncaringly sucked my warmth while I waited for the other two to descend. I highly recommend practising jumping a knot in the middle of an abseil rope, as learning that in the middle of a rainstorm, while frozen and shivering, is not a good place to be trying to explain the technique. Fortunately we had no issues, and the hike out warmed us all up, so we were just shaking our heads and thanking our lucky stars that we hadn't been higher as the ropes wouldn't have reached, and there are no rap anchors on this limb-sucking all trad route. We rapped in and retrieved the rope and the gear the next morning. I still highly recommend it though.

I also recommend Mount Buffalo in general. It's got an adventurous, remote, alpine atmosphere that you don't get at most climbing crags, but with a fantastic campground that's climber friendly (most camp sites are relatively isolated from each other and there's creature comforts like hot showers, and a sink for washing dishes). It's also got stunning scenery, great routes and iconic Australian furry creatures. You don't even need to take carrots.

Clockwise from top right: Neil and Mark in awe at the size of the North Wall. | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)

Mark leading the thin, friction slab of Run Free with the Buffalo (19**) at the Hump. | [Photo: Neil Gledhill](#)

Kate following Neil up the old school test piece Caligula (18). | [Photo: Neil Gledhill](#)

Neil leading the last pitch of the Pintle (14!), (L arête is the classic Peroxide Blonde (20**)), the Horn area. | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)

The main gorge as seen from the road into Mt Buffalo National Park. | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)

The south side of the gorge looks like a child's put the walls together. | [Photo: Kate Swain](#)

Opposite: Mark getting his limbs sucked into the bottom (crux) of Bloodnok (17), the Cathedral area. | [Photo: Neil Gledhill](#)



"Help! Please don't rescue me."

NOTES ON THE CAWA-SUBSIDISED RESCUE COURSE

by Mark Edele

In their 2003 live album "Among Bavarians", the anarchist humpa-band Biermösl Blosn made fun of the idea that a mobile phone can be a rescue device. The song describes a climber who gets into trouble on the Eiger, so he calls mountain rescue, only to hear "please hold the line" as he hurtled down the north face[^]. This climber, of course, had a much better chance of getting rescued as a result of his call that most of us in WA, should we ever get stuck with a serious injury on a climb somewhere. There are a couple of reasons for this: Firstly, the unfortunate climber had mobile reception, which is not a guarantee in our neck of the woods. Secondly, had he managed to get through to mountain rescue, he would have been asking for help from a highly specialised organisation. This, again, is not entirely guaranteed here, given that vertical rescue is not a routinely practiced skill in our State. Having myself had the privilege one day to watch a local rescue team train at Stathams Quarry, I concluded that I'd rather be responsible for my own rescue.

Given the lack of vertical safety rescue courses available, CAWA facilitated the arrangement and booking of a two day course run by PWR. This must have been one of the most popular initiatives in the recent history of the Association, as the twelve spots were booked within a week. So we spent a weekend trying to learn to rescue ourselves, or others like us (called 'casualties', we learned, not 'victims').

PWR, may be known to most climbers as the owners of the Urban Ascent climbing gym in Bassendean. However, their main driving business is in providing emergency response services to the mining and construction industry. We spent the Saturday at their facility, going through the basics, refreshing our first aid knowledge, learning (to some of us) new knots, and setting up pulley systems. By the end of the day, we could all tie both an alpine butterfly and a 'bunny ears' knot with our eyes closed, and we had learned how to lift a casualty onto a stretcher (my relentless moaning as a 'casualty' caused some giggling, but I was not dropped). We also discussed how to solve a variety of rescue scenarios with the minimal gear likely to be available in a climbing situation. We had also learned that telling the casualty the full extent of their injuries was probably not the best idea. ('Mate, you're bleeding to death and anyway, you'll be paralysed from the neck down' might be an accurate assessment of the situation, but it is NOT what you tell the 'casualty'.)

On the Sunday we had a practical day planned, and I arrived early at Stathams (because I wanted to have a closer look at a climb I was projecting), only to find the quarry already bustling with people setting up abseil lines for a school class of forty. They were rather amazed that we were booked in, too, but after some negotiations, they kindly moved one of their ropes to give us some space to practice.

The day was dedicated to field training, and it was on this day that to most of us the complications of an actual physical rescue were driven home, as we tried rescuing each other from the Penguin Wall.



'Contact rescue' techniques with an unconscious casualty. | Photo: Robin Booth

Meanwhile, some of our female members found admirers among the grey haired abseil instructors ("Did you see her?! Can I volunteer to be rescued? I might be old, but I'm not blind!") Little did they know how uncomfortable it is to be a casualty, particularly if you're pretending to be unconscious and if you weigh more than your rescuer. Plus manhandling a casualty of either sex who is completely uncooperative (and moaning something about an injury) is about as erotic as lifting weights while hanging sideways in a harness.

The weekend had its lively debates, too. One was the about whether or not to tie knots in slings when building an anchor, if for example, one sling was longer than another, in order to equalise the weight distribution on the anchor points. Given recent testing by DMM* one argument was that tying a knot into a nylon or dyneema sling used to set up an anchor was a no-no: a knot will approximately halve the breaking point of the sling, and the sling might fail as a result of a relatively small fall². The counter-argument was that while it was true that knots compromise the breaking point of the sling, the equalised distribution of force to all the pieces in the anchor reduces the shock load on the knotted sling, as the force is distributed across all the slings, and will lessen the shock loading of the anchor system, which would be particularly important should one piece pop out, and this was a more important safety issue.

The stats: A typical sling is rated at 22 kN (or 2.2 tons of weight); tie two knots in it, and you reduce it to about 5.5 kN (or about half a ton). However, if you put enough force on your anchor to break a sling with a single knot in it, you're looking at a force that's large enough to pull a Walnut 11 wire apart (12 kN). To put this into perspective, most leader falls are between 4-7 kN (due to stretch in the rope, friction, distance fallen, and a number of other factors) and forces above 10 kN will start to cause internal injuries. According to the latter faction, what the DMM tests show is not that you should not tie a knot in your anchor slings, but that you should not fall onto a static system (i.e. directly onto a sling or a non-dynamic rope). Needless to say, both sides of the argument did not change their opinions over the weekend.

The second debate involved the taking off of bras. And, yes, this was first aid related. The issue arose when we were talking through our first aid, and started discussing defibrillation. The instructor, Dan, noted that on female casualties, bras with metal in them needed to be removed before zapping the lady casualty. The men day-dreaming about climbing while sitting in the classroom suddenly woke up half-way through, and suddenly got involved, with several opinions emerging. First were the literalists, who insisted that the issue could only be resolved by taking the time to determine if the bra had metal in it prior to bothering to remove it; second were the practicalists, who suggested that there would not

[^] Biermösl Blosn, "Allzeit Erreichbarkeit," Unter Bayern (2003).

* The relevant videos here: <http://dmmclimbing.com/knowledge/slings-at-anchors/>; and <http://dmmclimbing.com/knowledge/how-to-break-nylon-dyneema-slings/> (both last accessed 23 June 2014).



'Contact rescue' techniques with an unconscious casualty. | Photo: Robin Booth

be time to inspect the properties of a bra in an emergency, so better to remove it regardless; third were the confused, who thought it should be the casualty rather than the rescuer, who should get rid of the support; and finally were the lechers who argued that there would be no harm in both rescuer and casualty undressing. To the best of my knowledge, the issue remained both thoroughly theoretical and unresolved on this occasion.

What I took away from this course was how hard it is to rescue somebody who is seriously hurt. I have in the past dragged up a climbing partner dangling in mid-air after a fall, using an improvised pulley system. However, this involved a victim (or was she a 'casualty?'), probably 25 kilograms lighter than I am, and there was only minimal rope drag. Add heavy drag around corners and a heavy climber with lots of trad gear attached, and you'll need assistance, even with a pulley system. If the injured person is hurt badly enough and unable to assist in any way, for example because of loss of consciousness, you are in serious trouble.

Theoretically, the most surprising fact I learned was that suspension trauma, or 'harness hang syndrome' is still an issue, even with modern equipment. I did know it existed, because the generation of my father was very conscious of the fact that they might have only five to ten minutes to get their partner sorted out, if after a fall the fallen climber was unconscious and hanging in the air. I had always assumed that this was because they were either tying themselves, Hitler-Youth style, directly into the rope, or using a chest-harness (the swami-belt, popular among various Anglo types, was to my knowledge not used by continental European climbers, at least not by those of my acquaintance). However, the syndrome has nothing to do with how you are tied into the rope and is still a problem with modern harnesses, and a potentially fatal one at that.

If the casualty is suspended in mid-air and is unconscious (and hence cannot wiggle about to keep circulation going), you have a serious emergency on your hands*. Other causes are severe exhaustion, which is an issue for cavers and alpinists, but outside of big-walls probably not for rock climbers. The most likely reason to lose consciousness, and find yourself or your partner in this situation, is because of a blow to the head, either from a falling rock or by smashing against the wall as a result of an uncontrolled whipper. A helmet is likely to avoid both. In addition, always make sure you have a plan for the worst case scenario you might expect. What this means is if you're planning on getting on a long route, in a remote location, make sure you have the necessary equipment and expertise to deal with the worst case scenario. Rescuing someone is not something you want to be figuring out as you go along.

* A good summary of the literature is here: <http://www.outdoorswa.org/files/Harness%20Hang%20Syndrome.pdf> (last accessed 23 June 2014).

Clockwise from bottom right: 'Contact rescue' techniques with an unconscious casualty being performed on day two in Stathams Quarry. | Photo: Robin Booth

In the classroom doing theory, practising knots and rehearsing first aid. | Photo: Dena Rao

Setting up a three to one pulley system to haul the 'casualty'. | Photo: Robin Booth

Cutting climbing ropes in a few different ways...an exercise in demonstrating how much rope damage can be done and still not die. With knife and scissors participants cut the ropes down to one core strand. | Photo: Dena Rao collection



The Hangout's New Lead Wall

By Tracy Wall

Gareth and I adored our old lead wall, but it was time for a change. Our lead wall had endured years of climbers hanging from its belly was reaching it's used by date, so we started planning how we were going to replace it, and with what.

Over time we developed a list of important considerations:

- * We loved that the old wall featured a lot of roof climbing, and we wanted to incorporate more of the same in the new one.
- * Climbing in WA has grown and grown over the last decade (or two or three), so we needed more space for lead climbing to avoid queues.
- * We wanted to completely separate the lead area from the top roping area so that other fascinated climbers and spectators could watch lead climbers from a safe distance without being tempted to stand underneath them.
- * We wanted to make the wall compliant with the latest Australian indoor climbing wall standards.
- * We wanted to be able to build it quickly and efficiently while keeping the rest of the climbing gym functioning as normal.
- * We wanted it to be able to accommodate a range of climbs (from really easy to really hard).
- * We wanted it to be safe and fun to climb on.
- * We wanted it to be within budget.

Removing the old wall and rebuilding the new one started in Feb and took us three months to complete. A team of us worked during the night so that we didn't interrupt the running of the gym. Power tools and welding just aren't conducive to a safe and relaxing climbing experience! For three months our team worked hard putting in long hours, barely seeing the light of day. Limited hours to go grocery shopping and limited places to buy food at 3am led to some interesting culinary challenges. We discovered just how many maple syrup hot cakes it took to make strapping young men feel seriously unwell, and just how important it is to have a head torch with you while cooking a barbeque at 4am.

In the end we managed to reach all of our objectives. The new wall went up on schedule and we kept the engineer happy while managing to use every last inch of height available to us. The 10 m roof on the new wall is about 1.5 m shorter in



length than the old one, but this was a sacrifice that we were willing to make so that we could incorporate all of the other things that were important to us: we were able to add a few more top ropes to the gym, and more storage space for new holds.

We are really happy with our new wall. It enables people new to lead climbing to feel comfortable as they lead up a grade 14 with lots of quickdraws (spaced to Australian guideline standards), while veteran climbers work through climbs in the high 20's on the roof. We now have over double the amount of lines available (with over 80 quickdraws), than we had before so lots more people can lead climb at the same time.

The wall has been designed with variety in mind. The set up allows us to set short, medium or long routes in a variety of directions. With subsequent resets climbers will be able to enjoy a diverse configuration of routes on a variety of wall angles. We have a selection of huge volumes to incorporate in the next big reset that will add even more variety. Our long crack feature that runs from the floor up into the roof is adjustable in width and can facilitate anything from a thin finger crack to off-width. This crack will soon be lengthened, taking it to around 10 m in length.

We ummed and ahh'd over surface treatments, and paints. We decided against a highly textured surface as it has as many bad points as good ones (it can abrade skin and shoe rubber too readily). We chose extremely low sheen paint as it offers significantly improved friction over shiny paints, however the down side of this is that it will look dirtier sooner as it accumulates shoe rubber. It is a bit like buying white carpet: if you own toddlers and/or pets, you just have to accept that it will never look the same as it did on the first day!

We were very fortunate to have welder and climber Wally Jones on our team (who impressed our engineer with his high quality of workmanship), as well as local climber and carpenter Joshua McMurray. Gareth managed the project, and in consultation with our engineer came up with its design. I was general dog's body and painter.

So what was the funniest part of the three month rebuild? That is easy! It was when Gareth managed to spill an entire large tin of dark grey paint over his head and body! True Story! and what was my biggest regret of the rebuild? ...only that I didn't take a photo of Gareth covered in paint!



Photos courtesy of the Hangout

NEW ROUTES

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

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

KALBARRI

CONTROL TOWER

The control tower wall is the orange wall located directly above the runway (Drop Zone). The base of the wall can be access by scrambling up easy ground about 50m downstream from the Drop Zone.

Sneaking out the Window 12m 16*

Start straight under the vertical crack. Progress up several meters, then move around left along aesthetic rock formation. Sneak out the window and up onto the roof above. Although tempting, the direct alternative (17) up the arete has very sharp edges likely to cut the rope. Descent by scrabbling along slope ridge (heading downstream)

FA: Remi Vignals, Delphine Chabanne – 30/09/2012

Breaking Curfew 10m 22

Located 3m right of SOTW where the wall steepens. A deep L hand pocket will get you off the ground. The line goes up and slightly R. Despite reasonable gear placement, it is an unnerving 6m of pumpy steepness.

FA: Remi Vignals – 7/06/2014

Whispering Freedom 10m 20* (Mixed)

Reminiscent of the flat ledges found at the Promenade, it offers a great series of moves. Start on the steepest section of the wall between BC and MF. The first pocket used for protection seem to only fit narrow SLCDs. 1 bolt. Same lower off as Midnight Flit.

FA: Remi Vignals, Alex Jasper – 25/07/2014

Midnight Flit 10m 21* (Mixed)

Entertaining start and worthwhile moves on all shapes of rock. Follow the most distinctive line directly under the bolt and lower offs.

FA: Remi Vignals – 8/06/2014

ADVENTURE WALL

Evening Tunes 16m 19*

Start on the RHS of the first stepped terrace. Place gear early or secure the belayer. Move slightly right to get off the ground then back left along slope to the thin corner. Continue straight up to the top pass the middle of the drum sounding flat feature above. Play a few beats if you dare!

FA: Remi Vignals – 26/07/2014

Morning Poetry 17m 17*

Start 2m right of the first stepped terrace. Avoid ledge at 2m by climbing slightly steeper wall. Then up a straight line to the middle flake and continuing directly toward the dead tree at the top, finishing right (possibly on reachy holds) to avoid tree branches. Fiddly but fine gear.

FA: Remi Vignals, Shevaun Cooley – 19/07/2014

Too Late 17m 19

Directly up the large scoop, then move left half a meter to stay left of P&J. Less than ideal placements on bad rock. Climb it only if you have to.

FA: Remi Vignals – 21/06/2014

Romario 17m 16*

Straight up the small scoop in between P&J and 9-6=3

FA: Ross Weiter, Mario De Decker – 1/06/2014

Binary Tree 20m 19

Start 1m right of large river gum on the yellow coloured rock in between two water streak. No gear until the horizontal break at 4m. Continue straight up pass steeper section to finish 1m right of bowl depression.

FA: Remi Vignals, Delphine Chabanne – 7/06/2014

Algorithm 20m 20

Start behind the slopping block in the short space between two water streak (hopefully dry). No gear until the horizontal break at 4m. Continue straight up steeper terrain, use blocky flakes along the way, keeping the line straight.

FA: Remi Vignals – 8/06/2014

BISON WALL – PROMENADE

Pontoon 22m 19

Start 10m left of It's a Boy or 2m left of Peek-a-boo, just below the right hand side of the pontoon size ledge. A small pocket under the pontoon is useful to protect the first boulder move. Continue by traversing 8m left (horizontally) under the next roof. Exit and finish diagonally another 8m to the top crack of Chimney Sweep. A good outing!

FA: Remi Vignals, Brian Tan – 2/06/2013

Tribal Monkeys 20m 23

3m left of Thrutching the Bison. Overhanging and demanding at beginning and end. 6 bolts to DBB. Unclip 1st draw after clipping 2nd one and use a 2ft sling for 5th bolt.

FA: Ross Weiter, Ruth Murdie – 22/06/2014

Pontoon Direct 25m 19

Same bouldery start as Pontoon, but instead of going left, go straight up the break, moving a little left before using juggy roof. Keep a straight line and watch for rope drag as you negotiate the two short walls above.

FA: Remi Vignals, Brian Tan – 22/06/2014

Peek-a-boo 22m 21*

Start 8m left of It's a Boy, where the chocolate coloured band of rock juts out to present a start hold. Keep heading upwards and diagonally right through a series of horizontal breaks to exit out the overhanging roof at its narrowest spot. Well protected with cams.

FA: Brian Tan, Remi Vignals – 1/06/2013

RHS of BLACK WALL

Santa's Holiday 18m 10*

Fun climbing up the chimney. Avoid hollow sounding protruding rock behind (low).

FA: Brian Tan, Gesa Graser, Aurelien Delume, Emmeline Audic – 1/06/2014

Pof Relief 17m 20

A mid-size cam eater! Start on the pedestal, go up one move and trend left of the hueco continuing straight up the highest part of the wall.

FA: Remi Vignals, Delphine Chabanne – 1/06/2014

VOID WALL

The vertical wall located 50m downstream and opposite the Ravine.

The Void 15m 17*

This face climb starts with a leg stretch across the wide gap. Progress diagonally from the left to the right of the wall.

FA: Scott Bolladeras, Brian Tan – 16/07/2010

Fisting the Swear Jar 15m 19

A crack corner located a little bit further downstream. Exact location TBC.

FA: Scott Bolladeras, Brian Tan – 16/07/2010

BEAVER WALL

Around the corner left of COLISEUM facing north at Four Ways.

Eager Beaver 20m 18*

Start on a crimp to reach a small ledge at 2m, then slightly right a few meters to gain horizontal ramp, right again to finish up the right leaning crack (same as Determination). Walk off carefully left and down.

FA: Jean-Philippe Dumas, Gesa Graser – 20/06/2014

Determination 20m 20**

Join the two discontinued cracks in the middle of the wall. Needs a good clean. 1 x BD C4#5 + 1 x BD C4 #4 useful.

Walk off carefully left and down.

FA: Remi Vignals, Gesa Graser – 20/06/2014

Feral Goat Express 20m 7X (Solo)

The easy looking ramp on the right side of Beaver Wall with loose rocks. Hint: goat carcasses were found at the bottom. Best to avoid this way up or down.

FA: Brian Tan (solo) – 20/06/2014

WEST CAPE HOWE

RAFT AREA

Epitaph 65m 22***

(i) 30m 22: Go up trending left for 15m over some cruisey terrain to a short traverse before continuing up to the base of a thin crack. Up the thin crack onto the 'Tombstone' ledge. Small cams in the crack.

(ii) Finish as per final pitch on Tombstone.

FA: Jonas Hollingworth – 01/06/2014

Thank God I'm An Atheist 68m 18

(i) 33m 18: A variation avoiding the thin crack on Epitaph. From the thin crack continue left to another vertical crack leading to the 'Tombstone' ledge.

(ii) Finish as per final pitch on Tombstone.

FA: Jonas Hollingworth – 01/06/2014

THE OLD MAN AREA

Horizontal Refreshment 18m 21**

From the belay ledge at the base of The Old Man go up the inside corner and onto the face continuing to a short vertical crack at the top. Well protected with a few small wires and small to medium cams.

FA: Jonas Hollingworth and Trent Potts – 04/04/2014



Horizontal Refreshment (21)**

STYX GULLY

On the Cross 50m 17

(i) 20m: Start at the blocky corner which leads to a right trending wide flake, the obvious line located in between Identified Flying Stitch Plate and Three's a Crowd at the Styx Gully South Side. Good climbing but flaky crust makes

Continued...

the first 20m interesting until the large stepped ledge is reached. Big cams up to #5 recommended. Extend this pitch another 15m if rock is not sound enough...

(ii) 30m: Up the chossy corner to the top being careful not to break and drop anything down.

FA: Remi Vignals, Delphine Chabanne—26/01/2014

THE PYRAMID

Located on the left hand side of the main face of the Pyramid. Only accessible at very calm sea.

Off My Cheops 30m 16

Located on the LHS of the Pyramid. From the main ledge, traverse 1m left without getting inside the groovy chimney and continue up the major wide crack system. Finish Up on the arête.

FA: David Tickler, Remi Vignals—22/02/2014

Tura Stone 30m 19*

Up the twin cracks to the rectangular stone at 7m, and continue up the cracks without using the left chimney and staying on the face to the top of the Pyramid.

FA: Remi Vignals, David Tickler—22/02/2014

PEAK HEAD

Diagonal Crack 65m, 18

This climbs follows the left-trending diagonal crack on the west face from its beginning (start of White Witches on a Cross) to its end, then finishes straight up Skysurfer. Mostly good fun, with some slight awkwardness.

(i) 25m, 16: Up the ramp/crack to belay on the bolt of Layers of Grooviness located 2m above the ramp (FH).

(ii) 40m, 18: Continue up the ramp to its left end (gr.16), #1 Camalot is essential here, then up past 2 bolts of Skysurfer to belay on the 3rd bolt you come across.

(iii) Scramble for 20m to top and sling rope around boulder for belay. No new bolts were placed. Bring single set of cams up to #4 Camalot.

FA: Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas— 18/04/ 2014

WALLCLIFF

Damage Control 15m 20*

Start 5m L of Hired Gun. Jump to a starting hold at the lip of the cave and crank up past 6 BR's, bolt plates required.

FA: Kym Hartley— May 2014.

Headbutt 15m 19*

Start 2 metres right of DC and follow the bolts up the well featured face on great rock. Through the bulge on good holds then a delicate traverse left to the base of the flared crack. Finish up DC.

FA: C. Newton-Palmer—May 2014.



Practising jamming on the new hand crack at the Hangout.

Off Belay

LOGAN BARBER TICKS PUNKS IN THE GYM

On the 13th April Logan Barber ticked the iconic route Punks in the Gym (32) at Mount Arapiles, Victoria. It was the hardest route in the world, when first put up by Wolfgang Gullich in 1985. Logan first tried the route 5 years ago, and has been close to sending on numerous occasions over the last 3 years. He credits getting stronger, and getting rid of the mental aspect of the route to his successful send.

Read more about his ascent, and see the video on his blog:

<http://www.loganclimbsrocks.blogspot.com.au/>



Photo courtesy of www.loganclimbsrocks.blogspot.com.au

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

Thurs 10th

Gym Crash

Rockface

August

Tues 12th

Gym Crash

Hangout

Sat 23rd

CAWA Winter Dinner

The Oxford Hotel, Leederville

Fri 29th—

CAWA Trip

Eaglestone Rock

Sun 31st

September

Thurs 11th

Gym Crash

City Summit

Fri 26th -

CAWA Trip

Mount Frankland

Mon 29th

October

Tues 14th

Gym Crash

Urban Ascent



Tim Dove on Wishbone (17) at Eaglestone Rock | Photo: Peter Thomas



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