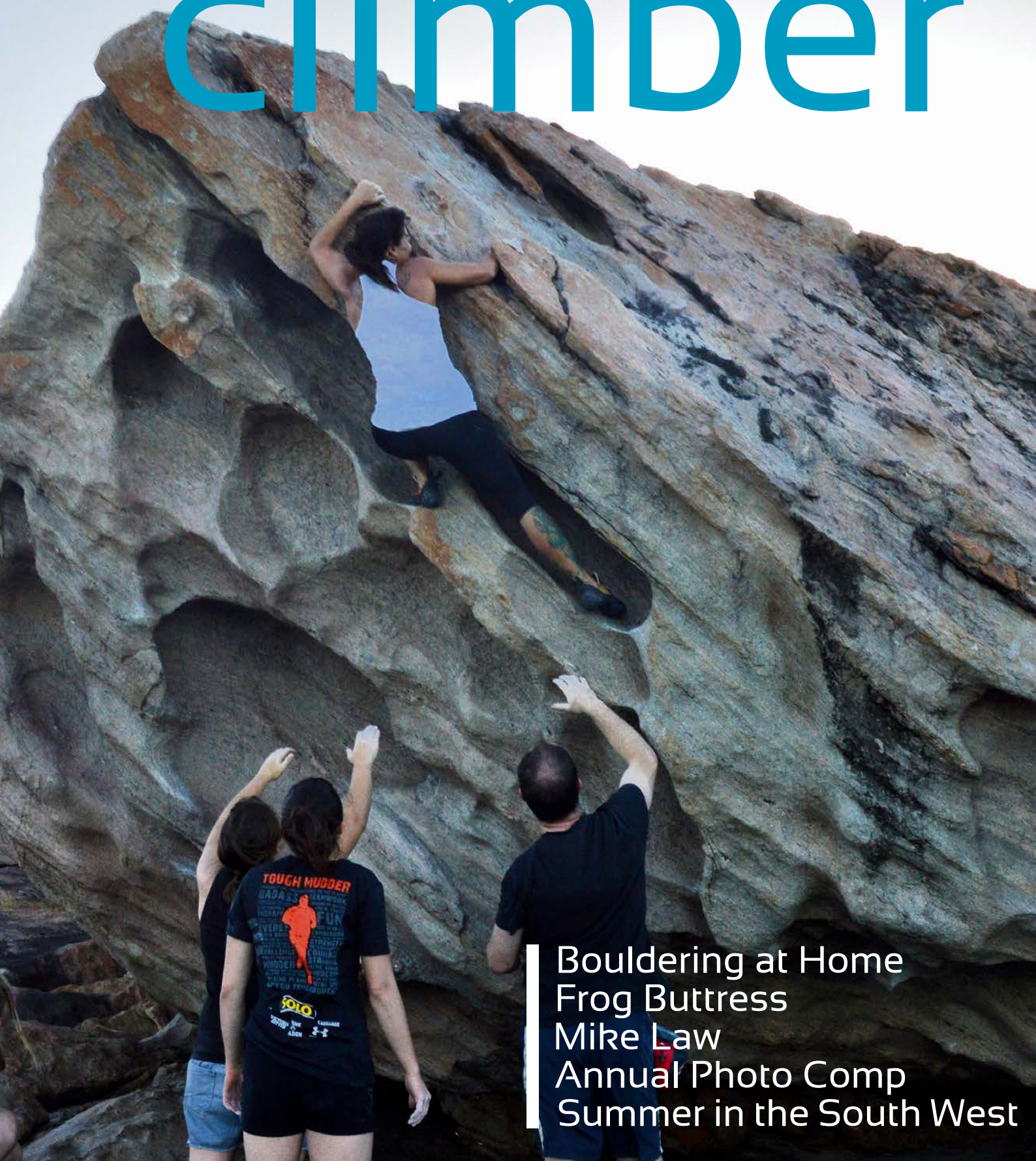


western
climber



Bouldering at Home
Frog Butress
Mike Law
Annual Photo Comp
Summer in the South West

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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 EDITOR

EDITORS: Mandy Bowler

EMAIL: editor@climberswa.asn.au

Welcome to the last edition of WC in 2013!



We are well into 2014 and have started this hot, hot year with a whole new committee for CAWA! Thank you to those new people (and 'recycled' as Dena would say) that have stepped up to the plate and are organising another awesome CAWA year for you.

Thank you to the outgoing committee also for such a great job over the past few years. With a Willyabrup trip already under the belt for the year, next up is Peak Charles at Easter, only a few weeks away.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Western Climber; I love the autumn issue as we always fea-

ture the fantastic photos that members submitted for the annual photo comp at the AGM in February. This magazine always benefits from the stunning colours and action shots that members send us, so don't forget to keep sending those pics in throughout the year.

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to slightly cooler weather to get out there and start climbing more seriously again, although I have spent a great deal of time at Blackwall Reach this summer!

Enjoy a fantastic autumn of climbing and I hope to see you out on the rock at some point.

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COVER PHOTO:

Megan Braddon, Copper Rocks.
Meelup, WA

PHOTO BY SAMANTHA OVERTON

ABOVE PHOTO: Mario on Mortal
Wombat (20) at Mountain Quarry.

PHOTO BY BRIAN TAN

CAWA WEBSITE!

Visit the website at www.climberswa.asn.au for more CAWA information, keep up to date with our 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

Western Climber

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 May 2013. We welcome all climbing related material - trip reports, new routes, technical, safety, equipment, DVD reviews, crag information and climbing gossip. We love photos of locations around the world as well as CAWA and most of all, people having fun climbing!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In spite of being broken with frustrating regularity, my passion for climbing has not waned and I'm thrilled that my climbing continues to improve. I still care about promoting and most importantly, protecting my sport. So after a three year break from the committee, I am back in the hot seat.

I am pleased to be able to introduce your new committee for 2014: Kylie West and Anthony Brandis have continued on, whilst Rick Allen, Mitch Elphick and Hamish Carrad have joined us for the first time. I hope that you will support and welcome them. We are very appreciative of Mandy Bowler and Kate Swain continuing to assist with the production of the Western Climber. Thanks must also go to Mark Weatherill, who has been our webmaster for over three years now, and Ross Weiter who continues to distribute CAWA's Perth Rock Climbing Guide. The most recent edition, released at the end of 2010, continues to be the most comprehensive guide to climbing in Perth.

It's going to be a busy year. The usual climbing trips and gym crashes are currently being planned. However, I am also keen to arrange some other climbing related activities such as informal technique clinics, so stay tuned. Whilst we are not able to provide formal training, we have previously arranged discounts through commercial companies with the appropriate qualifications and insurance. This includes courses run specifically for CAWA members and tailored to what those people requested. Anyone looking at making the transition from indoor to outdoor climbing would be well served by one of the basic courses. If this interests you, then please contact me and I'll see what I can arrange.

One of our main roles is to keep a close eye on any issues affecting access to climbing areas. Newer CAWA members may not be aware of the work that goes on behind the scenes liaising with land managers, contributing to management plans and generally striving to protect our sport. Whenever there is anything of note, I will report back to you during the year. I managed the access issues for most of my previous four year stint on the committee and have resumed this role. If you have concerns about access issues (or anything else), please contact me.

Everyone enjoys a social gathering and discussion is taking place about some unique events that we would like to organise, so we'll keep you posted. Please do let us know if there are any particular activities that you would like to see (and help us organise) during the year.

In the meantime, the annual Easter pilgrimage to Peak Charles isn't far away. Always an adventure! If you come along you are guaranteed at least one sighting of a rare and treasured species: 'the oldies' en masse, showing us how to do it in style!

Dena Rao
CAWA President



Ever get the post-Christmas blues? Head down south for a crag crawl...

SUMMER IN THE SOUTH WEST

REPORTER: Haydn Davies PHOTOS: Haydn Davies and others



So it's post Christmas and you have that bloated, hung-over feeling that you get from eating too much 'healthy' food. Well the only solution is to get a bunch of mates together and head south for a week of climbing, slack lining and associated shenanigans.

After the two and a half hour drag race down the South West Highway, we arrived at the first crag of the trip. Moses Rocks is the perfect place to warm up for a week of climbing as most of the routes are short and relaxing. I had just taken possession of a new trad rack, about eight shiny new cams and a few sets of

nuts and hexes. Dominic and I came up with the first game of the trip, walk up to the base of a route and go for it, without consulting the guide for tips and grades. Then at the end of the day we would look up the routes we had done in the guide.

Over the proceeding eight days we visited eight crags. From Wilyabrup with a few hundred lines, to Elephant Rock in Denmark, that really only had one trad route at the low tide mark on the beach, with lots and lots of people watching.

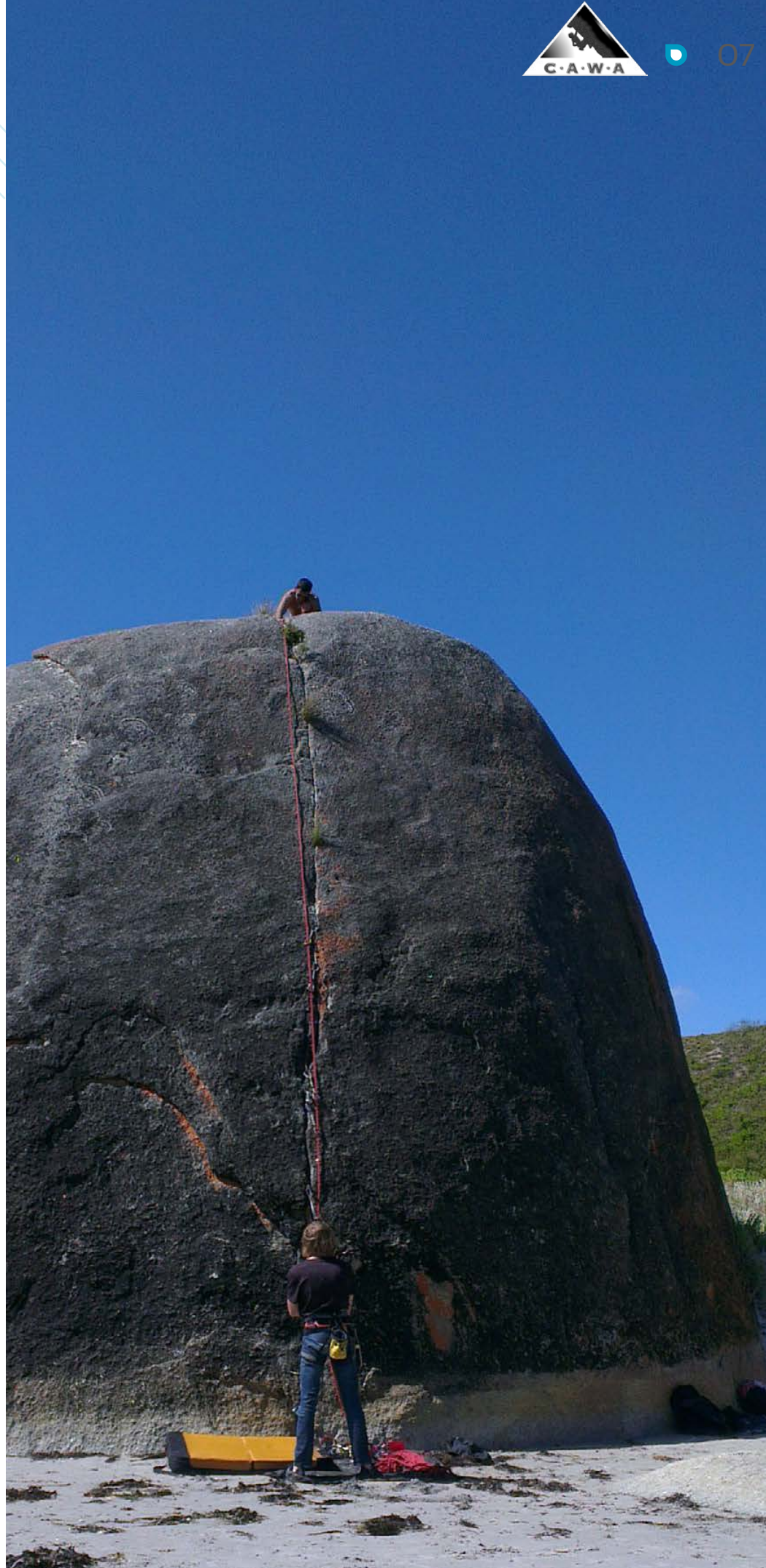
The first climb we did at Moses Rocks turned out to be a 15 'Hathersage' only eight meters but a good warm up. After a few hours we ventured further round the coast to some slightly higher walls. The interesting thing about climbing at a new crag with a big group of mates is peer pressure and sandbagging; yes we never grow out of it. "Nah mate this one round the corner was much harder, it flowed better, had way more sketchy run outs."

A few days were spent at Wilyabrup, which is a great trad/sport/mixed climbing area both for beginners and pros, with grades starting around 10 and scrambling up to a few good 20 to 24s. We tried projecting the popular Stainless Steel but kept getting thrown off.

Bob's Hollow was next. This is another fun area, all sport climbing on nice limestone.

ELEPHANT ROCK, DENMARK

"OVER THE NEXT EIGHT DAYS WE VISITED EIGHT CRAGS. FROM WILYABRUP WITH A FEW HUNDRED LINES, TO ELEPHANT ROCK IN DENMARK, WITH REALLY ONLY ONE TRAD ROUTE"





It was also busy. Never really being one to queue up for climbs, it meant we had to push our grades up a little. I managed Black Lung (21), a climb that had eluded me the previous year. We also tried a new traverse climb on the southern end, this was a bit of fun but poor route planning meant cleaning it was a pain. I wouldn't recommend it unless you are very confident in your cleaning abilities.

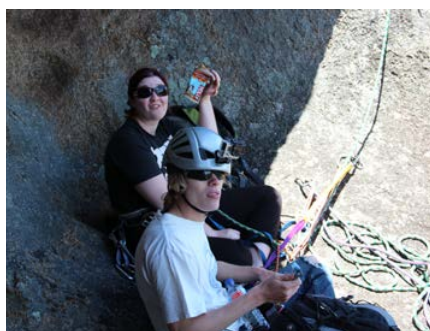
We also hit up Cosy Corner for some bouldering. This was also a great spot but was a little difficult to get to, as my navigator took me the scenic way that involved getting a little stuck. We only really did the VO's, VI's and V2's as the rest were high balls and we didn't fancy the fall with only one bouldering pad.

After New Years Eve at the Augusta pub, we split ways, with half the crew heading home in need of work. The rest of us (Ashlin, Hayley and myself) headed to the Porongorups for some multi-pitching. We stopped off at Elephant Rock on the way and did the crack climb there. It was fun and easy but could do with a lower off at the top as the single rusty bolt is a little bit sketchy.

We then carried on to the Porongorups, which are 50km north of Albany, where we stayed at the caravan park across the road from the park entrance. The next day we decided to try Raven, a 15 that follows the middle line of Gibraltar rock and has a nice cave halfway up the route. It took the three of us 4 hours to do, including a nice rest at the cave. We spotted a new set of shiny bolts on the eastern side of Gibraltar rock - looked good to check out on a future trip.

The drive home was a little sad as a Hayley's car was involved in a slight bungle with a truck that resulted in her car getting written off and the truck driver going to ER via helicopter.

I would like to thank everyone involved. It was a great trip and we will be doing it again this year, so feel free to come along!





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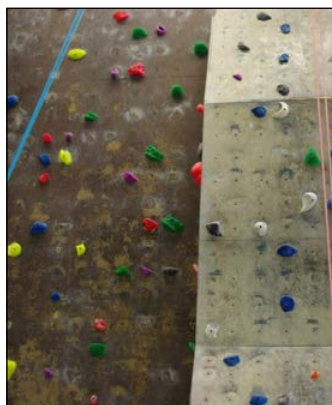


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OFF BELAY

CAWA AGM FEB 2014

Thanks to all who came along to the CAWA AGM in February at the State Library and to those who presented including Tony Brebner and Rob Baker, as well as Stew Sant as MC. Mike Adams and others also brought along a collection of 'historical' climbing gear. The Suicide String was my particular favourite. It was wonderful to hear Tony's tales of trekking the Camino de Santiago and very inspiring to hear Rob talk of his travels and see such amazing photos. That trip to Alaska just looked incredible. I just have to learn how to ski...



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 posted on the CAWA forum:

<http://climberswa.asn.au/forum/first-ascents/>

Ross Weiter has produced a new West Cape Howe mini guide and it can be accessed here:

<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/West-Cape-Howe-New-Climbs-Jan2014.pdf>

It includes new routes put up in December 2013 by Ross and Conrad Slee, including Have a Go (20, 15m); You Better Eat Your Wheaties (21, 18m), Black Widow (19, 20m) all on the Red Back Buttress as well as Gatling (19, 30m) on Claw's Wall at The Throne of the Gods.

* MT CLARENCE ALBANY - CLARENCE CRACK 10m (20-21) Start in the tight but short chimney until you hit the small roof. Hand stack, fist jam and grunt your way through and over the bulge. Hand jam your way to the top as the crack narrows slightly. Abseil down the other side or down climb the back gully. 2BR on top (need hangers). Medium to large cams. P Maher and D Reed 3.02.2014

*STONY HILL ALBANY: LAST MINUTE 8m (12) Start at the vertical crack on the left hand side of the crag. Jam up to an undercling and then up the right side of the large hanging flake. Well protected. P Maher and M Taylor 5.01.2014

KUMPE CRACK 8m (16) The large off-width/chimney 10m right of LM. Minimal protection. Small nuts and cams behind flakes and horizontal breaks. Climb the LHS face if you feel like cheating. M Taylor and P Maher 5.01.2014

YIELDING TO TEMPTATION 10m (17) The off-width crack/chimney on the right hand side of the slab. Medium to large cams in the back of the crack for pro. M Taylor and P Maher 5.01.14

LOST AND FOUND 10m (17) Start in the corner chimney as for YTT then step left onto the face below the large overhanging flake (crux). Swing out then up the left hand side and follow the flake to the top. Fun moves. P Maher and M Taylor 5.01.14

BY ROSS WEITER

FROG IN WINTER



"FROG IS THE AUS-SIE HOME OF "THE JAM", WHICH COMES IN ALL SIZES: FINGER, HAND, FIST, OFF-WIDTH AND BODY"

Mmmm, Queensland - beautiful one day, perfect the next, the slogan went.

Or was it Queensland- beautiful one day, a hotbed of corruption unrivalled anywhere else in the Western world the next? Either way, it has been a long time since the Fitzgerald Inquiry, not that it has anything to do with climbing, so Mark and I felt safe to go there without being harassed by the corrupt police who have no doubt largely retired to their Gold Coast mansions by now.

We heard the place was "hard", so got accordingly scared, set our sights "low", climbing between 15 and 17 on day one, so as not get our butts kicked. We quickly perfected the "Yosemite Glove", a tape glove made to protect the back of hands from hand jamming brutality. It has been 14 years since I made these things. Version 1 fell off mostly due to the crappy Coles tape I used, Ver 2.0 was the shits though.

If you think of Mt French as a castle, Frog Buttress forms the battlements on its north side. I suppose the name is meant to be funny, no one else knows it by that name but climbers. It is 1.5 hours drive south west from Brisbane airport, and some 12km from the small town of Boonah.

It would be hard to come up with a better crack climbing venue in Australia, maybe Ben Lomond in Tassie but that is about it. Mind you, Ben Lomond has mind-numbing uniformity while Frog has variety. WA certainly has nothing like this; we have the odd crack but it can mostly be avoided by face climbing or grunted by laybacking.

So Frog is the Aussie home of 'the jam', which comes in all sizes: finger, hand, fist, off-width and body. There are 375 climbs, half of them are worth doing and the rest choss. Probably half of that again would be in the 14-21 range attractive

to the average punter, which makes about 90 climbs to try. We managed 26 of those.

There are almost no bolts, just a couple on the odd arête. There are very few face climbs but there are some. We did Termination and The Stars Look Down. They are useful for a bit of variety but you don't go to Frog for that.

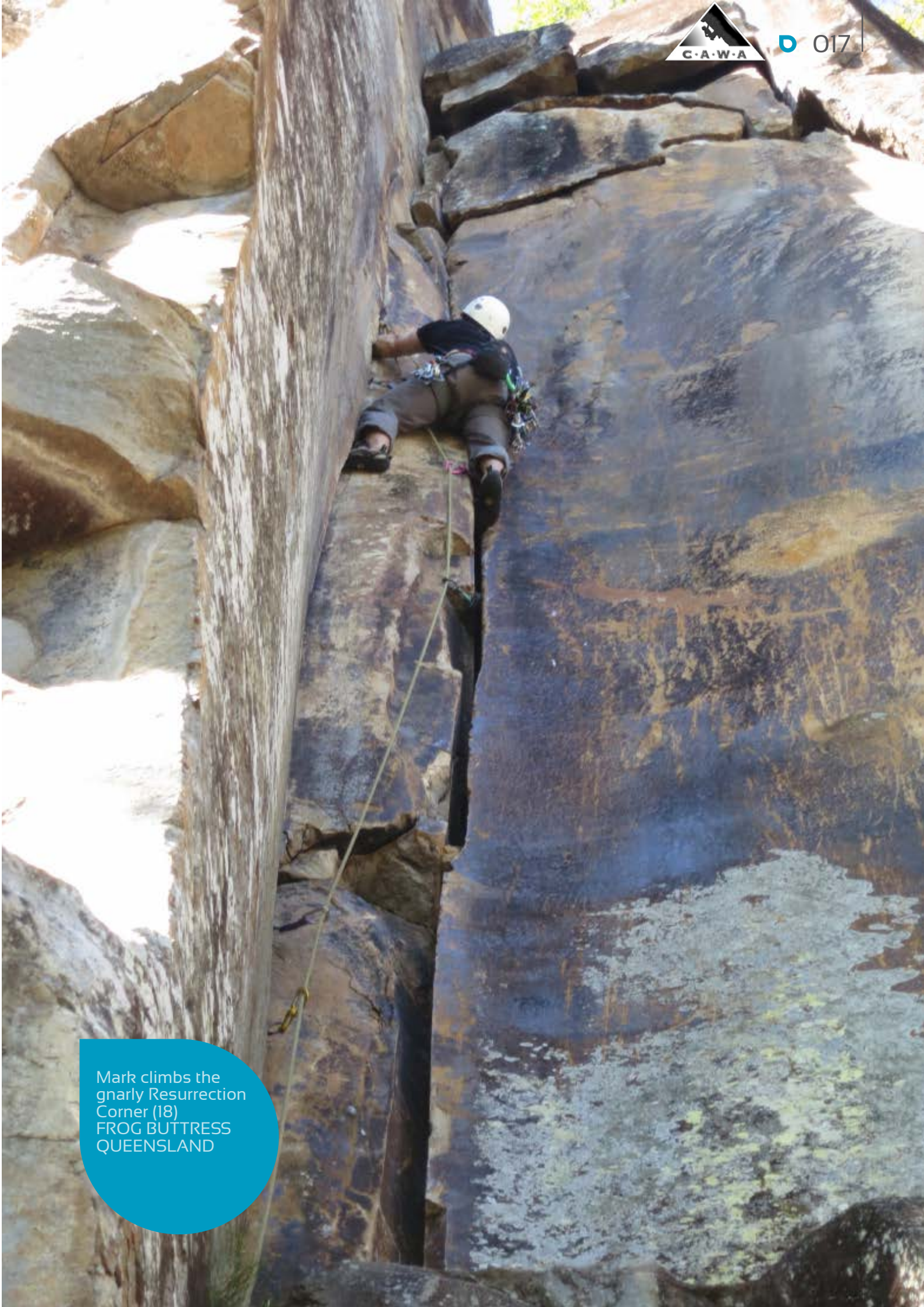
The guidebook can be found on http://www.qurank.com/guides/Guide_FrogButtress.pdf and the star ratings are pretty good. The grades are less dependable, we found that there are some very grunty 18s (Resurrection Corner) and some piss easy ones (Gladiator). Or maybe I just love hand jams and not fist jams. Ah well. There is only one way to find out, really. If you are not used to crack climbing, expect to climb two grades lower here than at home.

It is best to take two full racks of cams, from tiny #0 C3 camalots to #3, plus one #4, also a full set of nuts, especially the very large sizes. Some long slings (shoulder length and double shoulder length) are useful to sling chock stones in chimneys. Bring some tape for making tape gloves. The best one is 38mm wide, is made by 3M, and available from Boonah pharmacy for \$11.

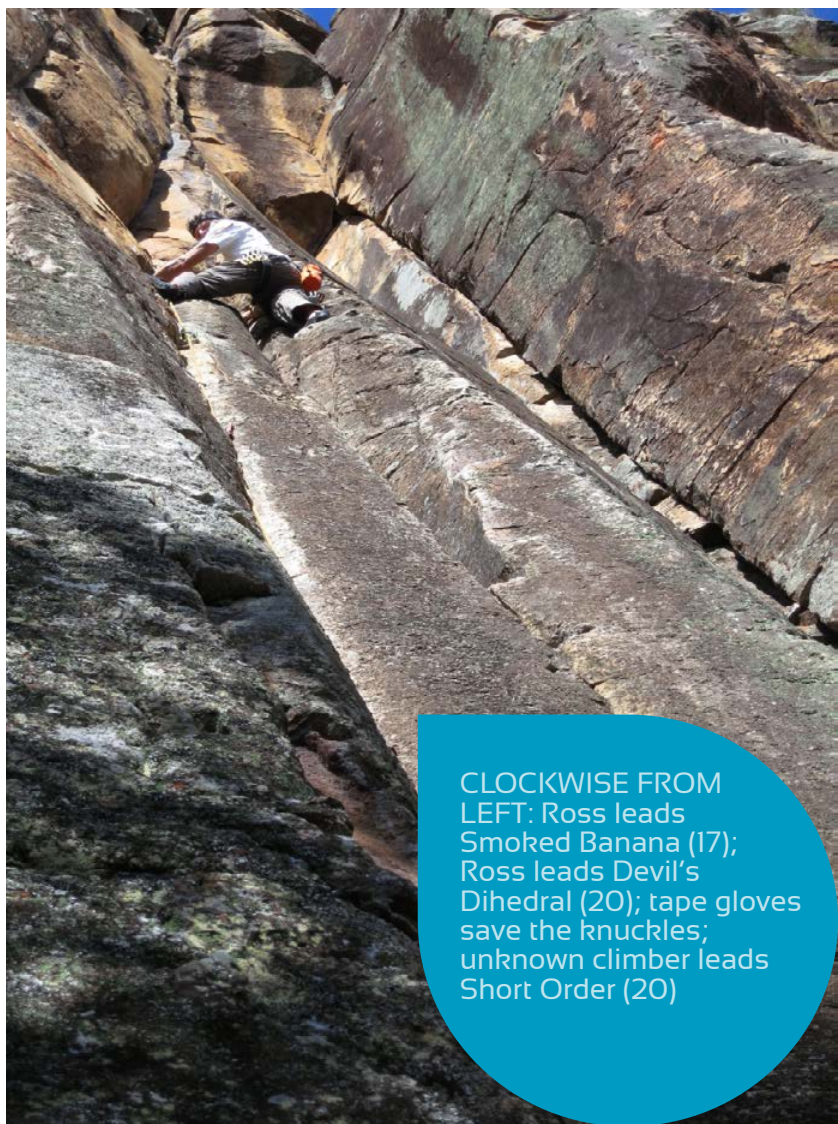
There is a great camp site right on top of the crag and less than 5min from all the climbs. Every evening people are milling about here, even mid-week, as southern climbers migrate north to escape the winter cold and rains. There were just enough people to have a sociable atmosphere - maybe 12 in the evening and 20 during the day. So this is not a massive war camp like Araps.

Its greatest assets are flushing toilets (so cool!) and running water, including a small sink for washing dishes. It gets cleaned every day. The camping spots are 200m from the car parking which gives them a nice quiet bushy ambience. There are many tables with benches so no need for chairs, and many wood BBQs to cook snags on or look into the flames.

The camp site costs \$5.50 per person per night and is paid for either via the web or by calling



Mark climbs the
gnarly Resurrection
Corner (18)
FROG BUTTRESS
QUEENSLAND



the number on the noticeboard. Payment is by card, booking number is issued, and this then gets written on a tag which is to be displayed on your tent. While booking, say that you want a site in Moogerah Peaks National Park, as the operator will have no clue where Frog or Mt French are.

The Optus/Virgin mobile reception is poor at the camp site and car park, decent at the crag, and excellent at the lookout 2min from the campsite. Store food in your car unless you want the local possums to eat it.

When to go - in winter! August and September are the driest and coolest months. The whole crag faces north and so most of it is in the sun for most of each day. The base of the rock is shaded by trees and there are some shady climbs, especially the corners and chimneys, and these can be done early or late in the day depending on which way they face. "Tropical" insect spray is useful as there can be some small bitey things. We had no problems but others two weeks before us (Remi) had issues.

The nearby town of Boonah has a Super IGA, a Mitre 10, an expensive camping store as well as several cafes and pubs. The Dugandan Pub is at the turnoff to Mt French and is the climbers' hangout, especially on Saturday and Sunday nights. On Friday and Saturday there is a free salad bar with every main meal, (typically \$14-16), which makes it great value. By accident I discovered that for \$3 you can get a massive bowl of ice cream with your choice of topping.

The pub is heated both inside and outside (gas burners) and has free wi-fi (no password) and a pool table. Harrys Café on Main St has a couple of sofas to lounge on. Flavours Café near Tyre-power is nicely decorated and spacious inside but with zero outside ambience, due to its location on an intersection. There are some other cafes and a pretty unexciting bakery on Main Street - think Baker's Delight.

On rest days, resist the locals telling you to go to the Mt Barney National Park unless you enjoy boring slogs across uninteresting dry forest surrounded by cow paddocks. Apparently Angela (Spange) has managed to summit this thing a few weeks earlier - it is the fourth highest peak in Queensland.

A better option is to drive up the Cunningham Hwy to Cunningham Pass where there are some excellent walking paths through temper-

ate rainforest - ferns, trees covered in moss, that kind of thing.

If you want to take the piss, the Visitor Info office in Boonah can direct you to the nearest winery. The caravan park at the Boonah showgrounds (end of Melbourne Street) has hot showers for \$3.

My brag list now has onsights of trad routes Conquistador (21), Devils Dihedral (20), Short Order (20), Termination (20), and The Stars Look Down (20). I also enjoyed Erg (20) although I fell off the off width bit 2/3 of the way up. It is a great climb and has taught me several lessons about wide cracks. Mark's best were Plume (19), Resurrection Corner (18) and Borderline29 (18). Plenty more to go back for one day!

There are many other crags in Queensland other than Frog - see the excellent South East Queensland Selected Climbs by Lee Cujes. Best of all, it is warm and dry in winter.



LAW UNTO HIMSELF

REPORTER: Kate Swain EMAIL: editor@climberswa.asn.au

KATE REVIEWS MIKE LAW'S NEW BOOK WHILE JONAS TALKS ABOUT HIS PERTH BOOK LAUNCH

Welcome to Michael Law's recollection of Australian climbing history. 'Claw' is a legend of Australian climbing: new router, sandbagger extraordinaire and a charismatic story teller, he's been sucked into climbing since 1970. Covering each decade since, the book is captivating, understated and full of a great sense of humour; if you're at all interested in Australian climbing history, this is a read you won't be able to put down.

Beginning climbing at the tender age of 11, the stories of survival, improvised equipment and developmental climbing techniques progress through the decades, described with boisterous flair and occa Australian humour. Stories abound with awful tights, carrot bolts, RP development, bold climbing necessitated by the lack of gear, interstate rivalries and bad climbing shoes that shaped his development and the progress of the sport. As gear evolved and improved, so too did climbing, moving away from aid towards free climbing the old aid routes. At the age of 15 Michael freed the aid route Janiceps at Mount Piddington and in true sandbag style kept it at grade 21, despite eliminating the 3 aid moves! This was considered the hardest free route in Australia at the time.

Based in the Blue Mountains, Michael established many new routes through many an adventure. The adventurous side was amplified by the characters he climbed with: Greg Child and Chris Peisker. Avid snake collectors, they got into climbing only so that when the venomous snakes they were chasing raced up

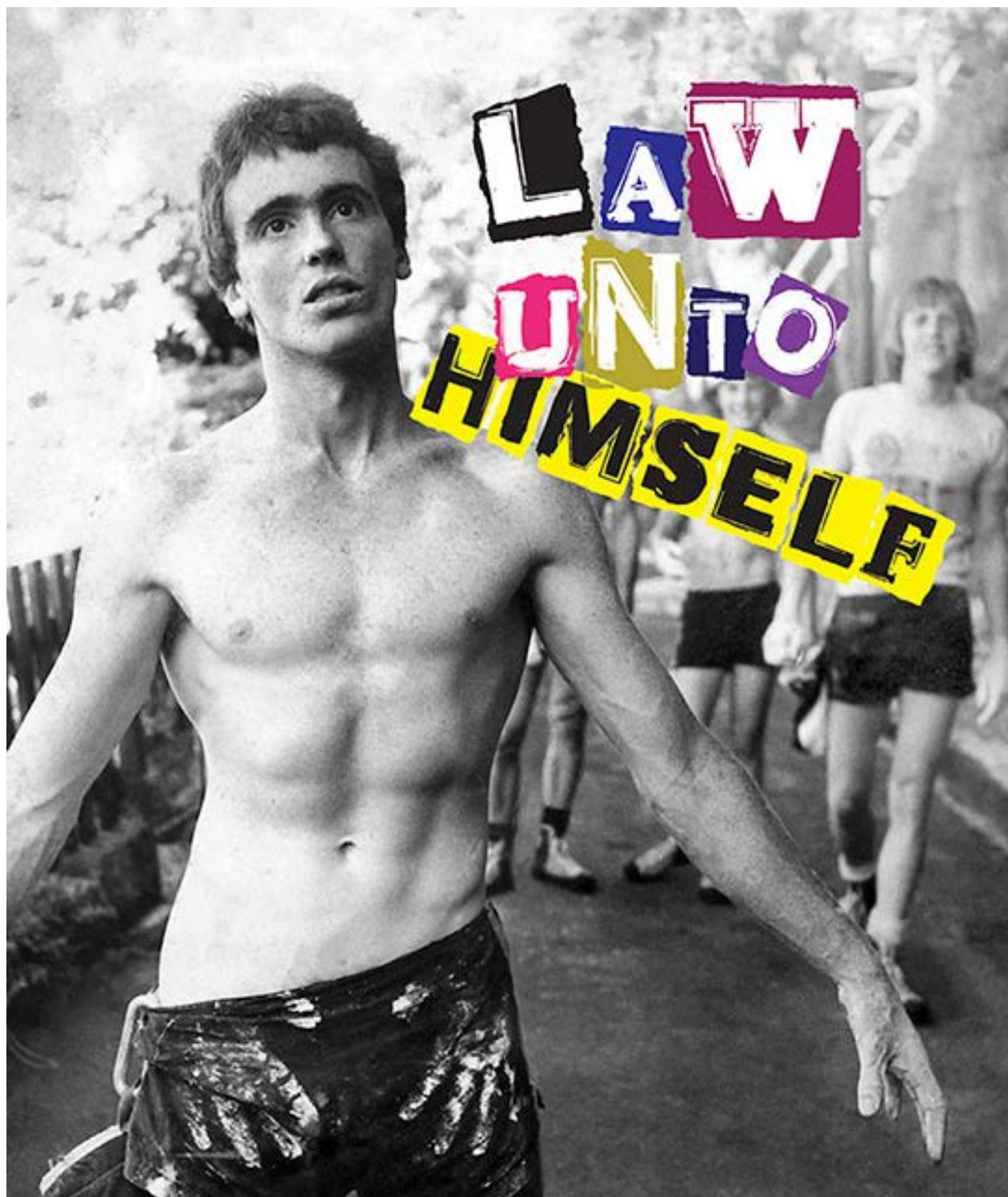
walls, they couldn't get away. Bryden Allen who put up some of Australia's hardest routes in the 60's and 70's "would have climbed much harder if he hadn't spent most Saturday's practising his recorder or Morris dancing". Jo Friend, who's willingness to solo on new ground (and not die) sees his name against many new routes. "While we were fantasising over some line we wanted to do, he'd have soloed it to look at some plants near the top". Kenny the psycho, and the list goes on.

Full of outlandish tales and crazy climbing situations (talk about learning the hard way to remember to finish tying in), this book is as much about storytelling and sharing his tenacious appetite for new routes, as it is a (self-proclaimed possibly not entirely accurate) version of Australian climbing history. Amplified with some classic photos collected from his colourful climbing partners, his anarchistic nature and quirky ability to see the lighter side of things and people is brilliant.

Even today, this keen new route junkie is responsible for developing classic areas like the Freezer (Blue Mountains), and putting up some multi-pitch mega-classics in the Gross Valley (Blue Mountains), this time with grades for enjoyment by the masses (and not too sandbagged either).

This book too is sure to become a mega-classic.

The book can be purchased from Mainpeak or Open Spaces Publishing <http://osp.com.au/?p=6467> for \$27.95 plus postage.



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70s SHENANIGANS AND FLORAL SHIRTS

REPORTER: Jonas Hollingworth

Friday evening, February 14th, saw Mike Law launch his autobiography at the North Fremantle Bowling Club. In true style, he was dressed in a bright floral shirt (as seen on page 154 of his book).

Settling in with a beer in hand, I was surprised that only a fairly small core of Perth climbers turned up for the launch (about 25 of the usual suspects), which was sponsored by Mainpeak.

I was hoping it wasn't going to be a slide show of a thousand 'me shots', however after the first 5 or 10 minutes I started thinking, "Is he actually going to show any slides of himself?"

Eventually he did, in what turned out to be a fascinating and humorous presentation which was not just about himself but also about the climbing history, characters and shenanigans that surrounded him from the 70s to the present.

By the end of intermission, I had a copy of the book in my possession and I later asked my partner if she could get him to sign it (it's always better if a girl does that sort of thing).

Meeting Mike was also inspirational, who at age 55 is still climbing hard with a bit of weight around the mid-section (sorry Mike). He also showed us 'first hand' what 40 years of hard climbing does to your hands - scary!

By the time the show was wrapped up, Mike had dispensed a few hundred slides and left the audience wanting more (which is what you get when you read the book). Thanks Mike for the great evening and coming all the way to entertain us folk in the West.

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INFO: GETTING A WOODY

WRITER: Jonas Hollingworth PHOTOS: Mandy Bowler

I first toyed around with the idea of getting a woody, that is making a bouldering wall at home, about 5 or 6 years ago when I started to get more into climbing. I wanted the ability to train on those days when I was unable to make it to the gym or rock. I live near Freo so getting to the gyms around Perth isn't easy, plus it can get expensive and so can babysitters. Blackwall Reach isn't far away, however bouldering there in winter can be a challenge, especially after dark. So I concluded that a woody was required.

For about 6 months I pondered a design and how I would 'erect' my woody until I finally decided to move on it. This really paid off as it gave me time to invent some great features and design ideas, scavenge for free materials and solve problems before they even arose.

The first issue I brainstormed was where to put it. Having it out of the weather was essential if it was going to stand the test of time and allow me to boulder all seasons and weather. This gave me three choices: the spare bedroom; the garage; or under the pergola. The first two options didn't really appeal to me as I didn't want to give up those areas exclusively to bouldering.

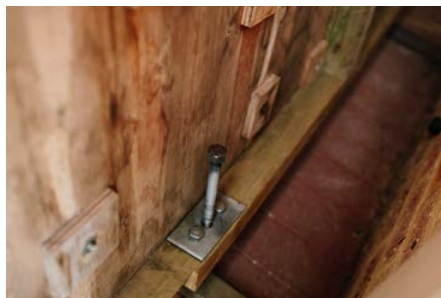
The pergola, on the other hand, had a lot going for it. It provided the wooden framework to attach a wall, has more height and space than an enclosed room and is more social with a BBQ and outdoor setting close by.

From here I pondered a design. I wanted it to be as dynamic as possible with multiple features and variations to reduce the probability of boredom. Woody size does matter, so I decided to 'go big' and settled on having two main walls, one above the other, each about 2m x 2m giving me a total of about 4m wall height. The top wall attached to the underside of the pergola roof providing an overhang which is set at an angle of about 70 degrees. The lower wall attached to the pergola main support beam with large gate hinges so I can adjust and fix the angle to make problems easier or harder.

My days of woodwork in high school paid off as construction went to plan with few hiccups. Earlier I had scavenged some disused portable flooring which I promptly recycled into planks of treated pine and sheets of 5 ply which saved me many \$'s. I heard that at least 7 ply is best for climbing walls for adequate rigidity however I decided to make the frame a bit tighter to compensate for any potential flex.

I began construction on the bottom wall first. Having an adjustable-angle wall was by far the most dynamic and interesting feature, but coming up with a system of fixing the wall at different angles had me stumped for some time. Even-

tually I decided on two drop down legs that would slot into holes on a fixed rail. This was done by using two steel threaded rods, essentially a massive bolt, threaded through a fixed nut which can be tightened and loosened with a huge shifter.



My major concern with using the pergola was that adding a couple of hundred kilos to it may compromise its structural integrity with potential catastrophic results. Therefore I took steps to reinforce the pergola by backing up all joins. Anything that was nailed on I made sure was screwed down tight using brackets. The two drop down legs on the bottom wall also went a long way to solving this problem as by adjusting the tension, they not only take the weight of the bottom wall but also in effect turn the bottom wall into a giant support beam for the entire pergola!



With the addition of a boat trailer winch and a couple of small pulleys I was also able to rig up a system whereby I could fold up and essentially pack away the bottom wall when

not required. This satisfied my desire to have a fully functional pergola with my woody tucked away when not required.

Once this was all complete and the top wall was attached, I drilled random holes for holds and fixed a small square of 5 ply on the back of each. This proved crucial as a single layer of 5 ply wouldn't have been thick enough to support each 't' nut. With some gap filler, multiple trips to Bunnings and a coat of extra coarse textured paint to replicate the look and feel of real rock, I was finished construction.



The holds were by far the most expensive part of the wall. Again I scavenged and bargained where I could from multiple locations for both new and used holds. I attached them in coloured routes and set the grades slightly above or at my limits.

Having coloured routes does keep things a little more interesting but does take time to set up. To make things even more dynamic I bought some screw-on holds and attached these around all sides of the walls and to the pergola structure so I can do heel-hooks, toe-jams and under and over-clings. After I picked up about 7 or 8 free foam mattresses off Gumtree and verge collections, I was ready to start bouldering.

My woody functions fantastically and is quite rigid with minimal flex or movement that is rarely noticed. All up the total cost was about \$800 but I reckon \$5-600 of that was on the 200 holds (a hell of a lot). One problem that I encountered was I ended up with 't' nuts and bolts both in imperial and metric threads. This means I can only put certain bolts in certain positions and identifying these and finding the right bolt can be a real pain. This problem no doubt stemmed from sourcing holds from multiple locations and manufacturers and was a down side to my scavenging.

So it's now five years on and how's my woody performing? It's still going hard! In the last year or two I started attaching holds to the adjacent brick work of the house using dyna-bolts, which added a 2m chimney, more routes and made the entire wall more three-dimensional. I haven't got sick of the wall yet, although I do go through periods of low use but this is probably more due





to being busy with other things than anything else. My latest achievement was sequencing a 10m climb. It starts in the corner of the brickwork at ground level, traverses 2m right, then up 3m to the apex of the roof, traverses 2m left and then 3m down onto the brick work on the other side.

I probably average a boulder on it once or sometimes twice a week. And the best thing about having a woody still remains - its fun, convenient and there when I need it. I still go to gyms and will never give up the rock but my woody is the perfect complement to both of these. Often I'll just have a quickie for 15 or 20 minutes when I get a bit of spare time or I might jump on late at night after everything around the house is done. If I had my time again I would still definitely build a woody, its been well worth it.

CLIMBERS TALK PHOTOS

Photos capture the moment, the feeling and the energy of our climbing adventures. Whatever the method, DSLR, mobiles, GoPros, point and shoots, we love documenting our projects, trips and antics. In this awesome new segment, a few climbers who entered photos in the annual CAWA photo competition, talk about the story behind their fave photos.

REMI SIGNALS (PHOTO BY DELPHINE)

The Pyramid wall at West Cape Howe is a 30m piece of triangular rock featuring some of the best and most threatening positioned climbs at West Cape Howe, Western Australia. Weekend warriors don't always get the calm sea they wish for. So whenever the bottom of the pyramid is dry and 'Seabreeze' forecasts little wind and/or no swell, one should be ready to have a go simply because the opportunities don't come every day. Delphine captured this captivating photo of Emma, Gesa, Remi, Dave and Brian (from left to right) hanging out on Andromeda 15***, Take the Plunge 19*** and Flickering Indices 22***. The wild ocean may have frightened us from time to time, but having friends around made it a more serene and fun day.



SAMANTHA OVERTON

This is Megan Braddon bouldering at Copper Rocks, Meelup WA. We climbed here a lot this year. Although it's officially called Copper Rocks, my crew has dubbed it 'The Temple'. There are just endless amazing lines all over the formations, and being so

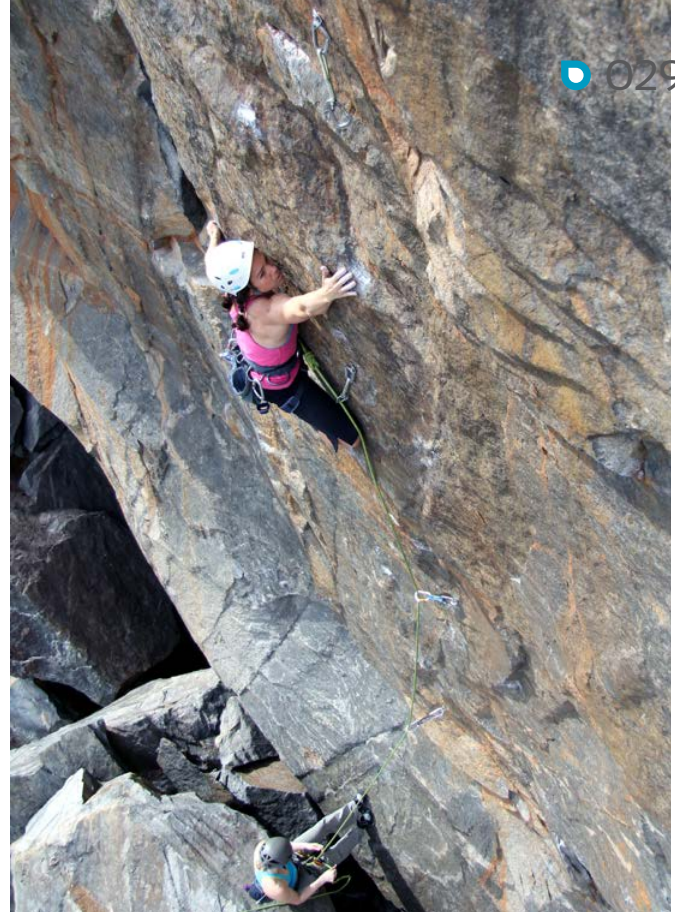
close to our home town of Busselton, we found ourselves there on a weekly basis to worship.



KATE BAILUE

La Wanda and I headed off on our journey over to Thailand last November to attempt to conquer the limestone walls of Railay, Tonsai and Phi Phi Island. Whilst Railay and Tonsai offered the best climbing in terms of both quality of rock and bolts, no other routes beat this view of the two bays on Tonsai Tower on Phi Phi Island. On bad rock and doggy stainless steel bolts, we persisted and on the last day of our trip ended on a high conquering Scenic Bullemic (6a) on Tonsai Tower. Not bad for two novice girls, who had met at Rockface two years prior!





BRIAN TAN

My favourite (apart from Bacon and Everest, also pictured) is Kris Hulvey on All the Young Fascists (24) at Statham's Quarry.

Kris was about to leave Perth to return to the States and it was one of the last chances to hangout before she headed off. As she didn't have enough time to venture too far away, a quarry session was the go. It turned out to be one of those really great days to be outdoors in winter and we also had the quarry to ourselves.

Firstly we surprised Kris with a cooked breakfast at the quarry, then prepped whilst the girls went through a couple of warm up climbs. After that they worked on ATYF whilst I took some time hanging off a rope to get some shots. They shared beta and got better with every attempt.

It was great to see the progression, not to mention the commitment from them taking a couple of decent falls on lead at the crux. In this photo Kris is concentrating on keeping balanced and trying to get to a hold that isn't visible from her position. NB. A hold has since broken off the climb; it's still climbable but a tad trickier.

PATRICIA GUIMARAES (see following page)

We spent 2 weeks in Tasmania, famous for its weird weather! The best day of this trip was spending Christmas Day at the Moai, with perfect weather and tide! 1 hour walking, 50 meters rappelling to reach Moai's base, and then climb this awesome dolerite column! It was a good experience with this magic view!



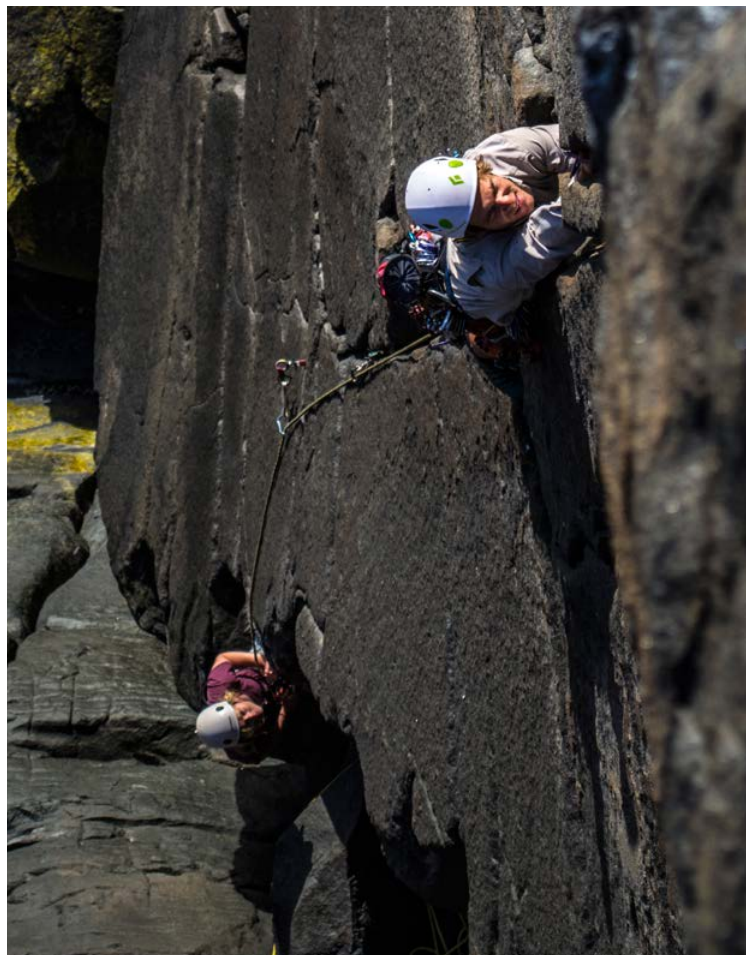
CHRIS KAVAZOS

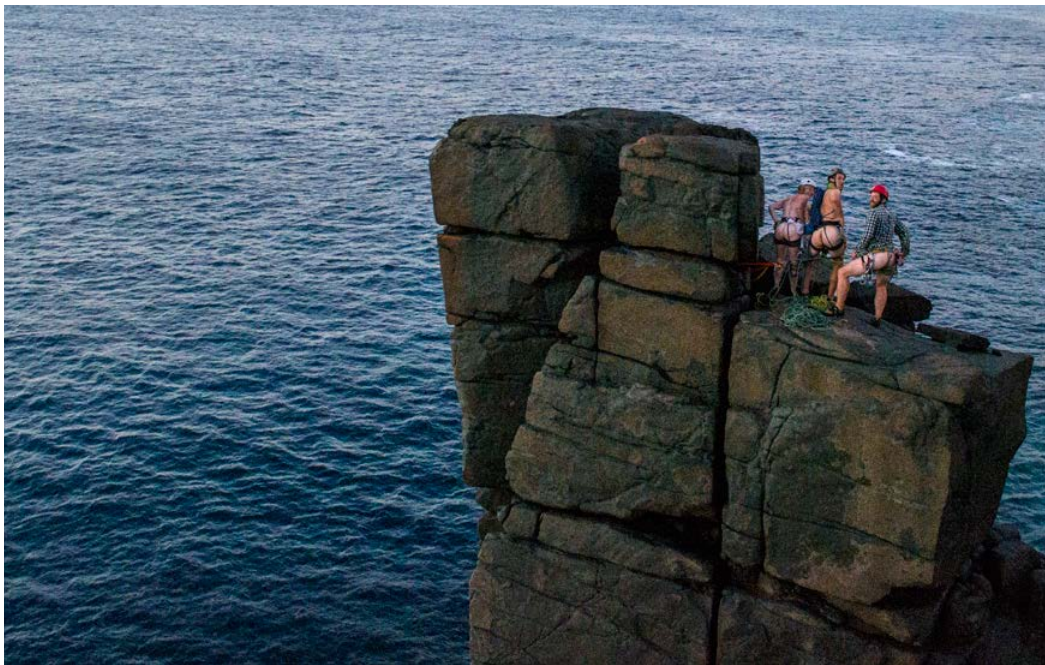
The last few months have seen me leaving work early Friday afternoon, running home to pack the car, and driving south for 6 hours only to crawl into a sandy tent in the early hours of Saturday morning. This overnight effort is paid off in the morning when you wander down to gaze at the spectacular cliffs of West Cape Howe.

With the Southern Ocean chewing your ankles, and the howling wind trying to make you fly, you better be ready for an adventure when you start climbing yourself out of whatever silly situation you've abseiled into. Being in such a beautiful natural location can inspire some to climb in the most natural way possible.

When Kelly decided to ascend 'The Climb' (18) topless, Adam and Matt, without any persuasion, ripped their pants off and declared they would climb it naked. Being careful of what they jammed into the cracks, they all made it to the top of the pillar, perhaps taking natural climbing to a new level.

RIGHT: Kelly belays Will up The Climb (18) at WCH in a fully clothed practice run for her naked ascent, the results of which can be viewed on the following page





Chris' photo on the left took out the Best Bum Shot Category of the Annual Photo Comp!

GESA GRASER (photo to right)

Mid 2013, Brian Tan and I went to Kuala Lumpur and added a side trip to Kuching as neither of us had been to the Borneo side of Malaysia before. A friend from Kuching told us of the climbing at Fairy Cave southwest of Kuching and put us in touch with a very hospitable couple who run a local adventure business and produce the guidebook for the area.

They kindly showed us around and also introduced us to another Australian climber Simon Wilson, who was coincidentally also in Kuching for a short visit. Simon had been part of the original team to bolt the area seven years ago (along with Garth Miller and Monique Forrester). Brian, Simon and two local climbers were working on an open project that Simon had bolted on his first visit to the Batman Wall. Brian managed to get it on his second shot and called it Seven Year Lottery (27).



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2014 PHOTO COMPETITION

REPORTER: Mandy Bowler EMAIL: editor@climberswa.asn.au

AND THE WINNER IS....

Another amazing photo comp at this year's AGM - a definite highlight of the night! Listed below are the winners and runners up of each category. Enjoy the photos over the next couple of pages!

Climbs in WA 1st: Brian Tan on Dancing the Deep Blue (26) at West Cape Howe. Photo by Ross Weiter

Climbs in WA 2nd: Night bouldering at Boulder Rock. Photo by Gesa Graser

Climbs in WA 3rd: Chris Kavazos climbing Shit-sky (17) at West Cape Howe. Photo by Mark Edele

Climbing Elsewhere 1st: Jorge Peres rappelling from The Moai (18) in Tasmania. Photo by Patricia Guimaraes.

Climbing Elsewhere 2nd: Mark Wood on Where's Caruthers (5.10), Indian Creek Utah. Photo by Kate Swain.

Climbing Elsewhere 3rd: Peter Tickler in Swing-ing (17) Mt Arapiles, Brian Tan belaying. Photo by Gesa Graser.

Best Bum Shot: Kelly Mills, Adam Straw and Matt Oldakowski on top of The Old Man, West Cape Howe. Photo by Chris Kavazos

Best Bum Shot Special Mention: William Gregory. Photo by Chris Kavazos (TOP RIGHT)

Best Outfit: Heather Davies on First Date (14) Mountain Quarry. Photo by Haydn Davies (BOTTOM RIGHT)

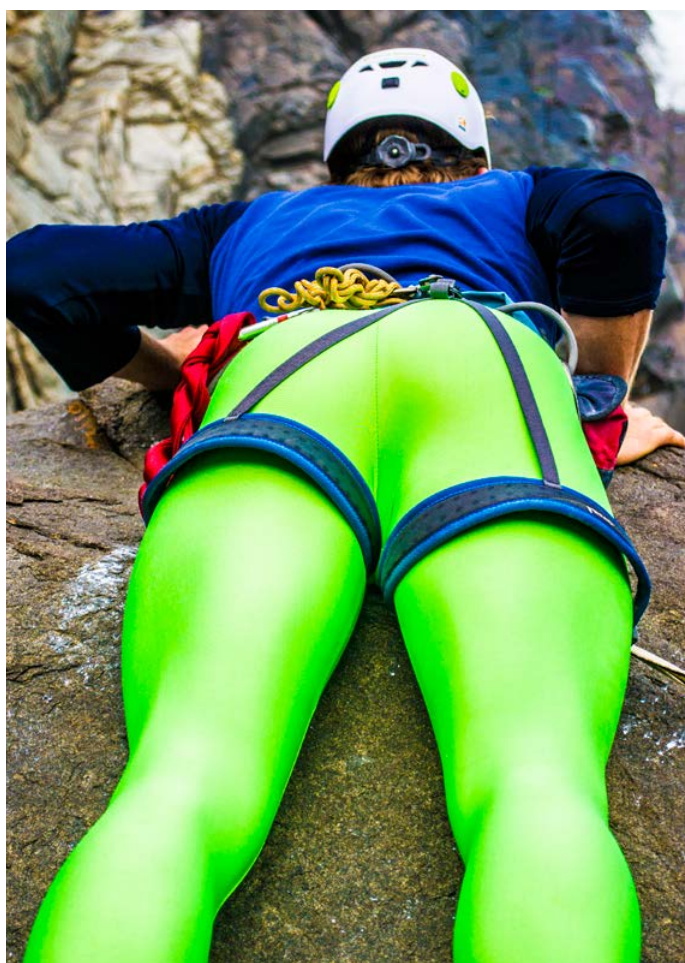
Best Outfit Special Mention: Tights. Photo by Chris Kavazos

Best Table Bouldering Outfit: Tony Brebner

Best Action Shot: Night bouldering at Boulder Rock. Photo by Gesa Graser

Best Photo that makes the Quarries look like a world class destination!: Kris Hulvey belayed by Gesa Graser on All The Young Fascists (24) at Statham's Quarry. Photo by Brian Tan

Best Photo that makes the Quarries look like a world class destination - special mention: Shoki Kawabe on B Young (16), Wellington Dam Quarry. Photo by Haydn Davies



CLIMBING IN WA

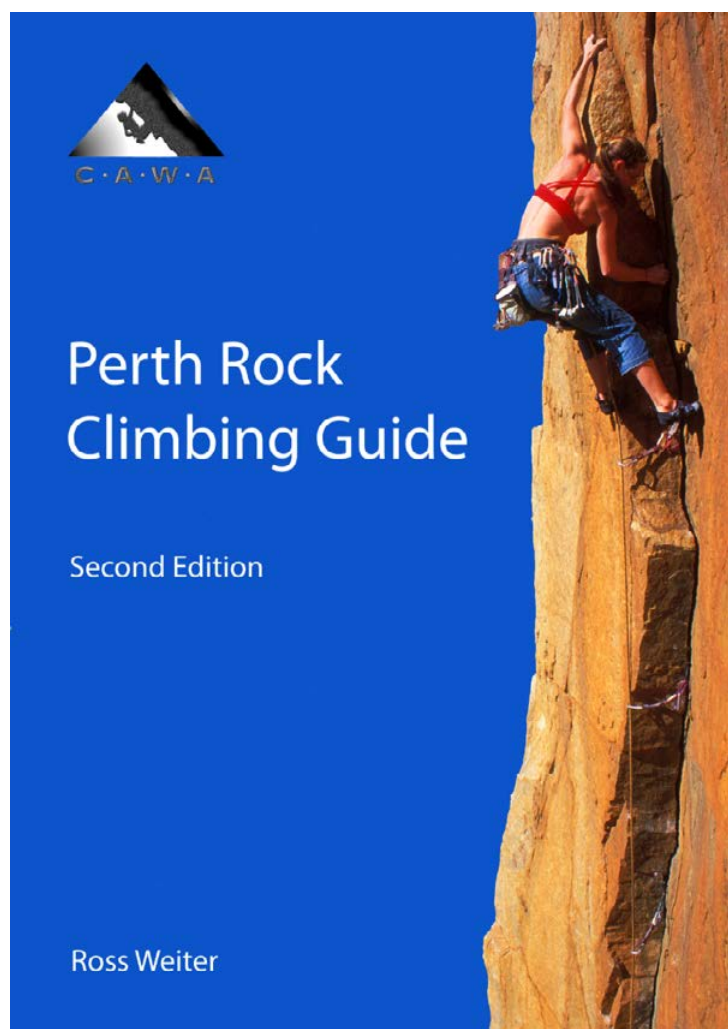


CLOCKWISE FROM
ABOVE:

Ross Weiter's winning
image of Brian Tan on
Dancing the Deep Blue
(26), WCH;

Night bouldering at Boulder
Rock, GESA GRASER

Chris Kavazos on Shitsky
(17) at WCH, MARK EDELE



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CLIMBING ELSEWHERE

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
LEFT:

Winning image of Jorge
Peres rappelling off The
Moai in Tasmania, PATRICIA
GUIMARAES;

Mark Wood on Where's
Caruthers? (5.10) Indian
Creek Utah, KATE SWAIN;

Peter Tickler on Swinging
(17) at Mt Arapiles, GESA
GRASER





CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN
IMAGE:
Tights at WCH by Chris
Kavazos;
Tony Brebner models his
table bouldering outfit;
Shoki Kawabe on B Young
(16) at Wellington Dam
Quarry, HAYDN DAVIES;
Kris Hulvey on All The
Young Fascists (24), BRIAN
TAN

WE LOOK FORWARD TO
SEEING YOUR ENTRIES IN 2015!



Omar on Rattler,
Kalbarri NP

PHOTO BY:
Brian Tan

