

western climber

Issue 019 - Summer 2016



Climbers' Association of Western Australia

CAWA website

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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.

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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 March 2016. 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.

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

Message from the Editor

Editors: Kate Swain & Matt West Email: editor@climberswa.asn.au

Welcome to our new editor, Mathew West, who joins us after completing a whirlwind tour of Europe. He's currently studying Professional and Creative Writing at Curtin University, and is a passionate, albeit relatively novice, climber. With access to fancy design software, I'm anticipating another brilliant Western Climber display in our next edition.

I've recovered from my shoulder surgery and am back and climbing again, so not only do I have the ability to crank, I can also operate a keyboard. Matt and I are ready to put together four issues this year and will hope you can help us make this happen. We'll be reporting new routes, cool

trips, rad climbing presentations like Logan Barber's A Local Climbers Progression presentation being held at City Summit on 30th January and Simon Carter and Monique Forestier On the Rocks Speaking Tour in February.

Other highlights we're looking forward to covering are Mike Law's Trad and Transition to Rock clinics preceding his presentation at the CAWA AGM in February. Not to mention new routes (did I mention that already), rebolting some routes to give back to a sport that I've enjoyed for more than half my life and once again cranking!

See you out there!

CAWA Committee

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Western Climber

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Contents page photo:

Elliot Vercoe sticks the crux of Glass Slipper (28) despite the rain, Kalbarri.

Photo by Remi Vignals



Cover photo:

Caitlin O'Neil on Albatross (15) Peak Head, one of the fabulous CAWA Photo Competries.

Photo by Chris Kavazos

President's Report

Christmas and New Year have just come and gone. Again. How did that happen? More importantly, why do my birthdays feel like they are coming around faster and faster each passing year? It's very upsetting.

What's been happening? We've had fabulous climbing trips, gym crash action with amazing pizza and lots of membership renewals. Now that the weather has warmed up and everyone has emerged from their winter caves, we're running the gym crashes monthly.

Climbers were spared the ravages of the dreaded blister bushes on our August Eaglestone adventure but others have not been quite so lucky. Because I am so concerned for your wellbeing, I have been investigating to see if the offending flora could be identified. A chat with Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) suggests that there are two possibilities: Grevillea and/or Ricinocarpus (wedding bush) species. Grevillea spp. are well known to cause sometimes severe allergic reactions. It isn't clear if there is a specific seasonal window and I am hearing reports of problems with rashes and severe blisters from visits during the colder months as well as spring. DPaW tell me that some children were hospitalised with breathing difficulties a few years ago after being at Eaglestone but unfortunately the responsible plant wasn't identified. Reactions have been variable, with some climbers reporting horrendous blisters and subsequent infection and others only mild skin irritation. No respiratory issues as yet. It can be difficult to avoid physical contact with the bushes out there so keeping covered with long sleeves and pants will help. It's probably also a good idea to know what you are allergic to when heading out to places with known issues.

The weather was a bit hinky for the Mount Frankland trip on the September long weekend but we still managed to get a decent amount of climbing in and most importantly, had amazing fires every night with enough toasted marshmallows to send everyone into a diabetic coma. The Wilyabrup trip at the end of November saw some great weather and climbing. Always a popular spot, there are plenty of wineries, breweries and eateries to keep everyone entertained when the climbing finishes for the day.

One of our key functions is maintaining access to climbing areas. As noted many times before, Australia is generally over regulated. So it's a constant juggling act of negotiation, balancing firm promotion of our right to climb with respecting the difficult job of DPaW and other government staff. We also deal with a range of people whose attitudes and understanding of various activities is variable. Top of the list of concerns tends to be liability closely followed by the emerging issues of native heritage.



Left and Right: Dena Rao hanging out in the Dolomites, Italy.

Photo: Dena Rao Collection

Recently, DPaW raised concerns about climbing taking place at Eaglestone Rock after a visitor complained about the presence of bolts. Though the bolts have been in place for the better part of ten years, DPaW seemed to be unaware of the climbing activities. The primary route developers, respecting the sensitivities that go with access, had initially sought permission from the local shire, believing this to be the responsible course of action. Permission to climb and bolt was granted but unfortunately by people not entitled to do so, as the area is managed by DPaW (not the local council). It is also part of a nature reserve, where any activity is prohibited without explicit permission from DPaW. DPaW is actually working to have this area reclassified as a conservation reserve, which is less restrictive. However, this is a long way off. There are also other issues here with relations between DPaW and the local council but these have nothing to do with us and are not expected to have any detrimental effect on climbing. It's not an uncommon situation.

The outcome is that continued climbing access has been negotiated with DPaW and it's business as usual. Just to be clear, this means that nothing will change for climbers. It's important for climbers to understand and be aware of the sometimes less obvious but important work CAWA does in promoting the sport and protecting access and for our members to help spread the word. It's not about aggressively demanding but building relationships and developing some mutual respect. Sometimes it's relatively straightforward and sometimes it takes a bit longer to work out the kinks.

We had some women's t-shirts left over from the 2010, a large number of which had faulty printing (the printers never took them back after replacement). Not wanting them to go to waste, the committee decided to donate them to people in need and I am pleased to say that they are on their way to Africa.

In early December Adventure Out very kindly ran a free skills evening for members. It was a resounding success, with over twenty participants. There were five 'stations' set up where a variety of activities took place, including prusiking, anchor building, escaping belays and mechanical advantage systems for rescue. Lots of very happy little vegemites with huge smiles on their faces. In January, we have organised a course through a commercial provider to teach essential vertical rescue skills, a must for anyone climbing outdoors.

The CAWA Xmas BBQ was held on Sunday 6 December at Point Walter and was a great opportunity to combine bouldering with socialising. It was more like a mountaineering club BBQ, with the somewhat alpine conditions. Not to be deterred, we cooked up a storm and had an impressive turnout, considering the weather.

A major upcoming event is the CAWA Annual General Meeting, to be held on Monday 22 February 2016. This time Mike Law ('The Claw'), an Australian climbing legend, will be coming over to entertain us on the night and conduct some training clinics over the preceding weekend. If you aren't sure who Mike is, check out the website, where more details have been posted. Keep an eye out for your AGM invitation in early February. As always, we need members to come on board and help us to continue working for the sport and providing member services. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Like several others, I have been slowly rehabilitating a shoulder injury and carefully easing back into climbing. It's good to actually be climbing rock again instead of the walls of frustration and I look forward to seeing you all at some of the upcoming CAWA events.

Dena Rao, CAWA President



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Canadian Adventures

A visit to the land of maple syrup and bears

Words and photos by Nathan Cole

Recently I had lost one of my Perth climbing partners. Fortunately, he had just moved to Alberta, Canada, one of the best climbing destinations in the world. Before he even had time to settle into his new house, I had booked my flights and was on my way to meet up with him for an epic climbing trip.

Colin was one of my best mates, and we had both climbed in Canada together two years earlier. On that trip there were routes that I hadn't managed to complete and for two years this had been eating away at me. Now it was time to make amends.

Our first stop was one of Banff's most popular spots, Lake Louise. This was a perfect spot to warm up for the trip, being one or two pitch, mostly sports routes with easy access and a spectacular setting. With a backdrop of Fairview Mountain and the lake, it was the perfect setting for a relaxed day of sport climbing.

On the second day we decided to return to our arch nemesis, Mt Yamnuska. Located just an hour's drive east of Lake Louise in the Rock Mountain Foothills, it's 152 m high, sheer face is impressive. Two years earlier we had tried to climb one of the easiest routes on it called "Easy Street", 230 m of grade 5.5, however we had gotten off route and finished on another climb called "King's Chimney" (5.7).

Determined to climb "Easy Street", we got up early and slogged our way up over steep, loose scree. After over an hour of cursing at the small marble size rocks that make up the path, we reached the base of what we thought was the climb. The first and second pitch consisted of heading up an easy section, then committing to an airy traverse. The traverse was a little more serious than described in the book and had some very strenuous moves to exit up a steep groove. After that we realised we were once again off route, and someone (not accusing anyone in particular), had dropped the guide book on the traverse.

Photo: The author ascending Mount Athabasca in beautiful weather soon to ascend into something quite different.

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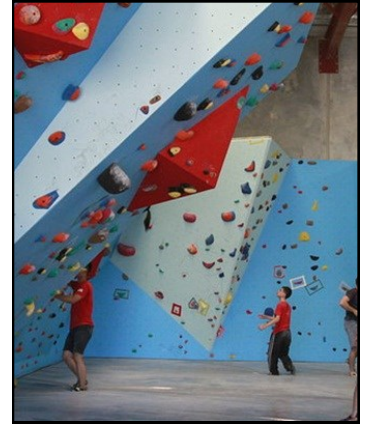
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Yamnuska and the long trudge up scree

However, we thought we would be able to meet up with the intended route if we continued on, so we made our way up through an interesting mix of grooves that felt like they were constantly trying to spit us out, as well as delicate climbing up steep, crimping slabs. Each pitch became increasingly difficult and the route became more unprotected and surprisingly steep.

alpine climbing we thought it was a good idea to hire a guide. I was forcefully woken at 3.30 am by a thunderstorm and someone snoring (Colin). After waiting for the weather to clear and throwing cold instant coffee down our face caves we commenced the ascent, in the dark, to the 3,491m summit. By sun rise we were putting our crampons on at the bottom of the glacier. The next few hours were a

Our poor navigation skills did however help us unknowingly avoid a bear on the way back to the car. Maybe it was meant to be!

Finally, instead of topping out on what we believed to be the last pitch, we found ourselves rappelling back down the route. Tired, but happy to have survived, we made our way home for beers. Over a cold beverage, we discovered that instead of the 5.5 we had planned, we had climbed a 5.10b. Our poor navigation skills did however help us unknowingly avoid a bear on the way back to the car. Maybe it was meant to be!

After a day of rest and amazing beer, we drove up to the Columbian Icefields to climb Mount Athabasca. With very little knowledge of glacier travel and

continuous slog up steep sections of ice and fresh snow, which tried to hide some deep, narrow crevasses, which we had to cross with care.

We reached the top of 'Silverhorn' by lunchtime, a predominant, horned-shaped feature, and the summit should have been an 'easy 15-minute plod in good summer weather over the narrow snow-covered summit ridge'. However extremely grim and threatening clouds rolled in and reduced our visibility. I didn't feel like getting struck by lightning that day and neither did Colin, so we made a hasty retreat to a safer, lower section of the mountain.



Mount Athabasca and the regular route past ‘Silverhorn’

With plenty of daylight to spare, the afternoon was spent practicing crevasse rescue and talking about the next pub to be visited.

The next night, I was flicking through a guide book and came across a route that looked amazing. Tak-kakaw Falls Route. 12 pitches, grade 5.6. It was 430m of climbing, with long traverses alongside Canada’s third highest waterfall. As an added bonus there was a 70m long cave on the second last pitch that we needed to go through to get to the final pitch. Without further delay we had the car packed and ready for the next morning’s amazing sounding climb.

We arrived at the carpark very early and I shuddered at the steep scree section that we had to ascend to reach the base of the climb.

The climb started with some class 4 rock scrambling and progressively traversed up and right, eventually reaching some harder sections paralleling the amazing waterfall. The views and exposure were incredible. Both of us were in awe when we reached a belay station at the rooster tail of the falls. The roar of

the falls and the enormity of it could never be fully appreciated from the tourist trail above.

Continuing to climb, we navigated some steeper sections of rock through a misty spray from the falls. We then encountered a few very long run outs on a very pleasant face, before we reached the entrance of the cave.

The cave was cold and dark, but relatively dry.

We coiled our ropes and crawled towards the final pitch.



Having a rest on the long but spectacular hike up Mount Athabasca.



Top: Falls Route. 12 pitches, grade 5.6.
Bottom left: The view from the Falls Route, including misty spray, but doesn't portray the intense roar of the falling water.
Bottom right: Colin crawling through to access the final pitch.

The top out was unbelievable. We were standing at the top of Takkakaw Falls, surrounded by amazing views of Yoho National Park.

Takkakaw Falls was the most enjoyable climb that I have ever experienced. To make the experience even sweeter, Colin let me lead all 12 pitches. In my opinion, this was a classic climb and I will never forget it.

The canyon provides the most amazing climbs on slabby, polished rock that provided random flakes and hidden jugs. The climb we voted as our favourite was a 5.10a called "Pokerface". It was 30m of sustained, strenuous and committing climbing. I struggled to grip each hold as my arms were pumped trying to make the next clip. But what made it so great, was that there was always a hidden jug, just when you needed it, that provided just enough confidence to make the next move.

Unfortunately I only had two weeks and Colin had to return to Nigeria for work. So we had a final goodbye in Calgary at the pub and I was on my way back home.

CAWA Winter Dinner



We held the annual CAWA Winter Dinner in July, swapping our chalk-covered pants and climbing snacks for smart attire and good food at the Oxford Hotel in Leederville. It was a lovely evening with the conversation dominated by stories of climbing places both near and far, tales of past CAWA trips, and of course, comparison of climbing injuries between those more experienced climbers. Thanks to all those who came along.

Megan Smith

Top: The CAWA crew left to right: Janice, Dena, Ric, Jack, Colleen, Nicholas, Andrew and Megan. Photo | Phil Calais

Bottom left: left to right, Nick, Andrew and Megan. Photo | Phil Calais

Bottom right: left to right, Dena, Ric and Jack. Photo | Phil Calais



CAWA Trip to Mt Frankland

By Megan Smith

I don't think I've checked the weather forecast as frequently as I did in the lead up to the CAWA trip to Mount Frankland. It was scheduled for three days over the Queen's Birthday long weekend at the end of September. "It's only 40% chance of >1mm, surely that will be fine?" Balancing my optimism and Dena's experience of the rain-fall patterns at Mount Frankland, we decided to run the trip and keep our fingers crossed that the rain stayed away.

Feeling pretty excited about a four day weekend, we headed off nice and early, and made it down to Fernhook Falls campsite by early afternoon. We got to take our pick of the many campsites still available – although they filled up quickly over the course of the afternoon. Fernhook Falls is a Department of Parks and Wildlife campsite, so there are no bookings for this site. Given that everyone was arriving at different times, I had the (dare I say it) ingenious idea of putting my shiny new blue climbing helmet on the little wooden bollard next to our site. It appeared to work, as climbers noticed it and found their way over. By nightfall we had a reasonable group of CAWA members who had arrived. As the temperature started to drop rapidly, we discovered that lots of people had thought about bringing firewood, but few had actually converted thought into action. "It's the thought that counts" doesn't help very much when the fire pit is empty. Thankfully, Chris had not only thought about firewood, but had brought along enough to keep us warm and happy for the first evening.

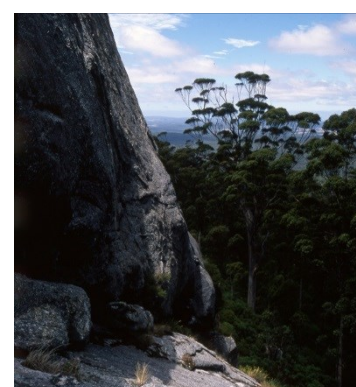
We woke on Saturday to overcast skies, but dry ground.

This filled me with optimism that we were going to arrive at Mount Frankland and have a glorious day climbing on nice, dry rock. Pulling into the carpark at Mount Frankland quickly dispelled that daydream, seeing damp pavement and wet leaves. Still, we packed our bags and headed to the climbing area. Unfortunately, one look at the rock and it was clear we weren't going to be climbing there at least on Saturday.

The group split up for the rest of the day and some of the group tried their luck at a number of different climbing areas in the region, including Thomson's Cove. I spent the afternoon exploring Mount Frankland on foot, not letting the rain and fog spoil the view from the summit. We reconvened in the evening at the campsite for another night around the campfire, sharing climbing tales and being treated to cookies baked by the youngest member of the trip, Anna.

Given the state of Mount Frankland on Saturday, most of us weren't game to potentially waste time heading out there to find wet rock again on Sunday. However, Ross was optimistic, and had a great day climbing there with his kids. Those of the group who didn't have to head back to Perth early on Monday spent the day enjoying all that Mount Frankland had to offer.

Despite the weather, it was a great weekend away with a great group. Thanks to Chris, Struan, Dirk, Dena, Elizabeth, Mark, Debbie, Anna, Ross, Thomas, Clara, Andrew, Jim, James, Max, Bec and Nathan for coming along!



Far left: Tommy Weiter seconding Free Burma (16) | [Mark Edele](#)

Left: Tommy, Ross and Clara Weiter gearing up to belay Ross on Free Burma (16) | [Mark Edele](#)



Dena Rao leading off on the first pitch of Dream Weaver. | [Mark Edele](#)

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Black-flanked Rock Wallaby

Re-discovered in Kalbarri Gorge, 20
years after last sighting

By Kate Swain

Conservation Status:

Western Australian Wildlife Conservation Act 1950 (State):
Schedule 1 – Fauna that is rare or is likely to become ex-
tinct (Threatened ranked as Vulnerable)

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act
1999 (Federal): Vulnerable

IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (International): Near
Threatened (Version 3.1)



**The two black-flanked rock wallabies, photographed by
climber Remi Vignals in September 2015 | Remi Vignals**

Two protected black-flanked or black-footed rock wallabies were discovered by climbers in Kalbarri gorge earlier this year. This has affected and restricted the way we use and climb at The Promenade (no more camping below the Prom), but what do we know about our furry friends? And how can we respect and share their small and restricted habitat?

Rock wallabies were once abundant across Australia, but a sharp decline was first recorded following hunting of the wallabies for the fur trade (now illegal).

Well we know that many of Australia's fauna is unique, often rare, vulnerable or is endangered. Why is this? And why haven't they adapted? Why are they so annoying as to pop up and spoil such a brilliant place to climb?! Well, you just have to peak into their history and much is explained.

Australian fauna have developed on a continent with no main predators, so have developed terrible defence mechanisms against introduced predators such as feral cats and foxes. Our state faunal emblem for example, the extremely cute but very endangered numbat, freezes when it detects a predator. This defence mechanism worked well when it's only predator was a wedge-tailed eagle, who detect prey by movement. However, this just makes them easier to catch if you're a fox or cat.

The clearing of native vegetation, weed invasion and changed fire patterns have deprived subsequent generations of native fauna of available habitat. In addition, much of our protected fauna, such as the black-flanked rock wallaby also now have to compete for food with livestock, rabbits and feral goats. This has also been identified as an issue in Kalbarri National Park, where management authorities have been working hard to control the feral goats, who eat pretty much anything, and therefore have been depriving the wallabies of abundant food.

So, what do we know about the black-flanked (or black-footed) rock wallaby? Here's some facts:

The rock wallaby is endemic to Australia.

The black-footed rock wallaby, *Petrogale lateralis*, encompasses five subspecies: *Petrogale lateralis lateralis* (the species rediscovered in Kalbarri), *Petrogale lateralis hacketti*, *Petrogale lateralis pearsoni*, *Petrogale lateralis* MacDonnell Ranges race and *Petrogale lateralis* West Kimberley race.

The distribution of these species is shown in Figure 1.

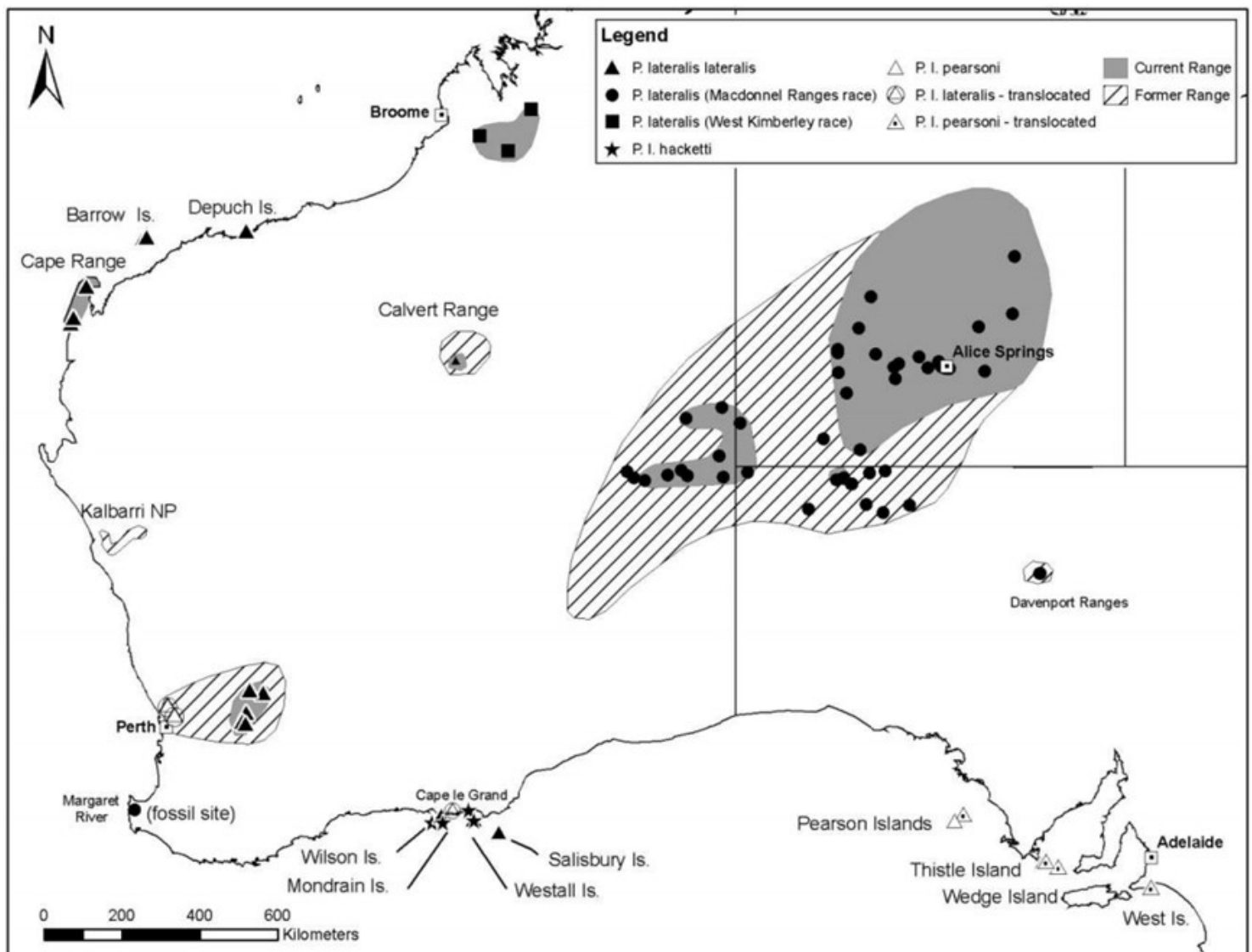


Figure 1: The distribution of the various subspecies and races of the black-footed rock wallaby (*P. lateralis*). Solid colour represents extant range and hatched areas the former range. (Source: DPaW 2013)

P. lateralis is primarily nocturnal emerging from their shelters to feed on grasses and occasionally seeds and fruits such as figs (if available). Typically they forage close to their rocky refuges to allow rapid retreat from predators. Known predators include foxes, dingoes/dogs, feral cats, eagles, pythons and large goannas (Eldridge and Pearson 2008).

Body condition is linked to rainfall and females in good body condition tend to breed more frequently. For WA Wheatbelt populations, births are distributed throughout the year with peaks in autumn and late winter/spring (Willers *et al.* 2011). As for our friends in Kalbarri, DPaW had been planning a reintroduction of the species using animals from Wheatbelt populations. It has been indicated that this may still occur if an assessment shows it is needed to improve the genetic diversity of the Kalbarri population.

So when you next head up, respect them and don't camp in the Prom, be sure to avoid wandering around the Coriander Wall (where they were seen), don't go into caves and shelters as they may house a wallaby, and ensure all waste is carried out. This is to avoid scarring them from loud noises, foreign smells and general presence which could prevent them from undertaking normal behaviour such as foraging. CAWA is working closely with DPaW to provide up to date information to climbers and other users of the National Park such as walkers, orchid enthusiasts, birders and general tourists. You can keep up to date with the latest news on the CAWA website and forum.

References:

DPaW (2013) Recovery plan for five species of rock wallabies: Black-footed rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis*), Short-eared rock wallaby (*Petrogale brachyotis*), Monjon (*Petrogale burbidgei*), Nabarlek (*Petrogale concinna*), Rothschild rock wallaby (*Petrogale rothschildi*). Western Australian Wildlife Management Program No. 55. Prepared by David Pearson for the Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW) <https://www.environment.gov.au/resource/recovery-plan-five-species-rock-wallabies>

KALBARRI UPDATE

Subsequent to this discovery, CAWA has received a letter from DPaW's Midwest Regional Manager, concerning the rediscovered rock wallabies and how this affects management of the area.

Climbing access to The Promenade has been preserved and DPaW have committed to provide an alternative campground near the Z-Bend car park to alleviate the camping in the gorge for climbers. DPaW is also committed to full consultation with CAWA in the development of the conservation plan over the next 6 months.

Given these important points and the conservational significance of the rediscovery of the rock wallabies, the committee has unanimously agreed to accept the management provisions outlined in the letter and believe that climbers will respect the nature and scale of the significance of the rediscovery of the species.

To provide help and support of the committee to maintain access, ensure a good working relationship with DPaW and enable the continued existence of the Kalbarri black-footed rock wallaby, please respect the current arrangements.

Further developments will be posted on the CAWA website. For any queries, please email: cawa@climberswa.asn.au



Kristi Thomas leading Keith Goes Blank on the Tourist Wall, Z-Bend, Kalbarri. | Bret Thomas

References Continued:

Willers, N., Mawson, P., Morris, K. and Bencini, R. (2011). Biology and population dynamics of the black-flanked rock wallaby (*Petrogale lateralis lateralis*) in the central Wheatbelt of Western Australia. *Australian Mammalogy* 33: 117-227.

Eldridge, M.D.B. and Pearson, D.J. (2008). Black-footed Rock wallaby *Petrogale lateralis*. Pp. 376- 379. In: S. van Dyck and R. Strahan (eds.) *The Mammals of Australia* 3rd Edition. Reed New Holland, Sydney.



Ms Dena Rao
President
Climbers' Association of Western Australia
PO Box 7125
CLOISTER'S SQUARE WA 6850

Dena
Dear Ms Rao

REDISCOVERED ROCK WALLABY POPULATION IN KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK

The recent rediscovery of the Black-flanked Rock Wallabies in Kalbarri National Park is of remarkable significance for the conservation of their species in Western Australia. The Department of Parks and Wildlife acknowledges the contribution of Climbers' Association of Western Australia (CAWA) member, Remi Vignals, in the rediscovery. The Department of Parks and Wildlife also appreciates your and CAWA's willingness to work to protect the rediscovered population. The responsible approach shown to date in seeking to highlight the importance of conserving the rock wallabies provides a good basis for a collaborative approach to minimise risk to the population.

Despite extensive searches over the last several months the population of rock wallabies at the Promenade appears to be the only one remaining in Kalbarri National Park. Testing has shown that this population clearly differs genetically from others throughout the state and conservation significance of these few animals is therefore very high.

Research shows that rock-wallabies respond to outside threats by retreating to shelter sites and not feeding, or by remaining so close to shelter sites that they cause localised overgrazing of preferred foods. Ultimately this can lead to the decline of populations as the animals are not able to access sufficient resources to survive and reproduce.

Staff from Parks and Wildlife who have worked at the Promenade site have observed clear evidence that elements of activity at the Promenade may be threatening to the rock wallabies. These include:

- Loud noises from climbers whilst climbing the Promenade;
- Foreign smelling items such as camping equipment stowed in overhangs, rubbish and poorly buried toilet paper and faeces; and
- Noise and foreign smells on a prolonged basis as a result of camping in the area.

Given these potential threats and the significance of the population, a more formal policy on camping and climbing in the Promenade area is required. During the next six months Parks and Wildlife will develop a conservation plan for the Kalbarri National Park rock wallaby population. The objective of the conservation plan will be to ensure the long term protection and sustainability of the population. The plan will give consideration to the aspirations for ongoing use of the

Promenade area by climbers and other users. Parks and Wildlife will consult with CAWA in the development of the plan.

In the meantime, as a precaution, to mitigate potential threats to the wallabies from camping activities, the area between Z-Bend and Placid Pool will be designated a no camping area and approval to camp in this area will not be provided. In addition, supplementary cat and fox baiting will occur in the vicinity of the site and the goat control program will continue with operations planned to take place in February. As an interim measure, camping will be permitted near the Z-Bend. Approval to camp will be through registration with the Kalbarri National Park Headquarters. A camping code of conduct will be developed in line with the Murchison Gorge code of conduct.

Geraldton Acting District Manager, Anthony Desmond, will contact you in the near future to discuss details of the code of conduct and the ongoing use of the Promenade for climbing.

It is recognised that there have been tensions within the association regarding the possibility of restrictions on camping and use of the Promenade area, following the rediscovery of the wallabies. Senior Ranger, Mike Paxman, and Anthony Desmond have endeavoured to maintain good relations with climbers and the association until further information is gathered. However, less formal approaches are open to misinterpretation, and risk ongoing pressure at the site and potential threats to the wallabies.

The *Kalbarri National Park Management Plan* (2015, MP83) states an action to: *"maintain a registration system for visitors camping remotely, in association with long distance hiking, canoeing and rock climbing in the Murchison Gorge, and consider limiting numbers as required, to maintain the quality of this experience and manage environmental and other impacts."* The action outlined above is consistent with this commitment and is considered a reasonable management measure to protect the wallabies.

The Management Plan also proposes the provision of improved access to Placid Pool and the recently announced Royalty for Regions Kalbarri National Park project provided for that to occur. However, this aspect of the project may be postponed to prevent an increase in visitor pressure in the Promenade area.

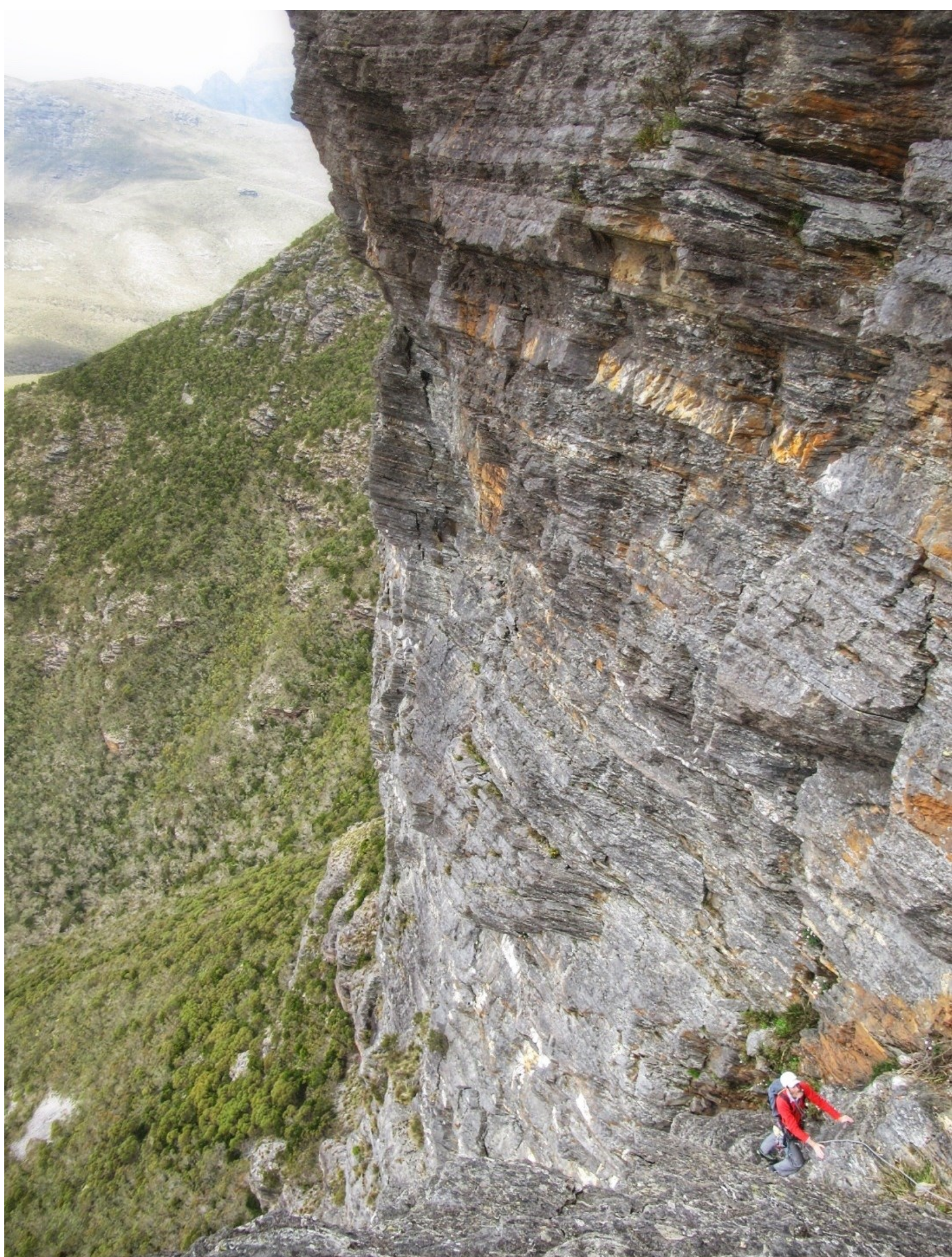
Please contact Anthony Desmond on (08) 9964 0901, should you wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours sincerely



Nigel Sercombe
REGIONAL MANAGER
Midwest Region

1 December 2015



A bit of activity has been happening down in the Stirlings the last few months. Here Chris Swain is on Devil's Nose Direct, Bluff Knoll main face. Photo | Kate Swain.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Photo: Adam Straw on Whaletooth (15) The Gap | Chris Kavazos

January

Sun 10th
Thurs 14th

Vertical Rescue Course

Gym Crash

The Boulder Hub

February

Fri 19th
Sun 21st
Mon 22nd
TBA

Mike Law Climbing Clinic 1

Mike Law Climbing Clinic 2

AGM

Gym Crash

The Rockface

March

TBA
Fri 25th
- Mon 28th

Gym Crash

CAWA Trip

The Hangout

Peak Charles (TBC)

April

TBA

Gym Crash

City Summit



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