

Issue 011 - October to December 2012

western climber

Free Newsletter for



CAWA members

Gorge du Tarn
Climbing in the Alps
Eaglestone Rock Trip
Mt Frankland Trip
Wilyabrup Trip
More Indoor Gyms
2013 CAWA AGM
Photo Competition
Changes at Churchmans

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2012 Climbing Competition

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Cover photo: Shaun Currey with winning tights on Sparrow (17) on Emu Wall at Eaglestone Rock. (Photo by Mandy Bowler).

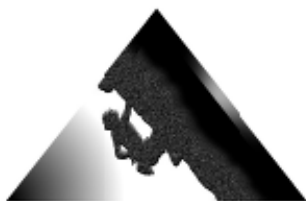
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Web Site <http://www.climberswa.asn.au>



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

C.A.W.A.

*** GET INVOLVED IN CAWA ***

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.

If you have any pictures you'd like to see on the front cover of **western climber**, please send them with full details to: 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 which should be brought to the attention of the committee should be addressed to the CAWA secretary.

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western climber

The official publication of the Climbers Association of Western Australia Inc. Issue 011 - Oct to Dec 2012

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GYM LOCATIONS

Rockface	63B John Street, Northbridge	9328 5998
Website: www.rockface.com.au		
The Hangout	12 White Street, Bayswater	9371 9939
Website: www.thehangout.com.au		
Joondalup	2/25 Winton Road, Joondalup	9301 0097
Website: joondalupclimbingcentre.webs.com		
City Summit	2/26 Harris Road, Malaga	9248 7035
Website: www.citysummit.com.au		
Urban Ascent	24 Jackson St, Bassendean	0419304925
Website: www.urbanascent.com.au		

western climber is the newsletter of CAWA and relies on contributions from its members. All submissions are welcome can be sent via e-mail by the deadlines below to editor@climberswa.asn.au.

Issue 012	Submit by	14 Feb 2013
Jan—Mar 2013		
Issue 013	Submit by	31 May 2013
Apr—June 2013		
Issue 014	Submit by	30 Aug 2013
July—Sept 2013		
Issue 015	Submit by	29 Nov 2013
Oct—Dec 2013		

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 places and people having fun climbing!

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CAWA CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 13 February Committee Meeting
Rosie O'Grady, 6:30pm
- 20 February Gym Crash
City Summit, 6:00pm
- 27 February ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
TBA, 6:00pm—9:00pm

MARCH

- 02—04 March Climbing Trip**
WILYABRUP
- 13 March Committee Meeting
Rosie O'Grady, 6:30pm
- 14 March Gym Crash
Rockface, 6:00pm
- 29 March—01 April Climbing Trip**
PEAK CHARLES

APRIL

- 09 April Gym Crash
The Hangout, 6:00pm
- 17 April Committee Meeting
Rosie O'Grady's, 6:30pm
- 30 April Gym Crash
Joondalup, 6:00pm

MAY

- 05 May Movie Night
Place & Time TBC
- 15 May Committee Meeting
Rosie O'Grady, 6:30pm

CAWA will endeavour to keep to the planned dates stated in the calendar above. CAWA members should check the CAWA website for the most up-to-date calendar; as dates may have changed since time of printing this news.

CAWA Calendar of Events on the Web
<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/events>



EDITORS'S CORNER

What a year 2012 has been!!! This has to be one of the busiest years that CAWA has seen. Memberships are up and our members look forward to the next event, trip and (of course) Western Climber.

This last edition for 2012 is a bumper issue with lots of stories from CAWA members, three amazing club trips (which included my first trip to Mount Frankland!) and amazing photography from Mandy (see cover page and Eaglestone Trip Report). We hope that this bumper edition keeps you entertained over the summer break and we look forward to super-duper stories from our members from their adventures over the Christmas break.

The REELROCK Tour was once again a sold out event. I personally loved the amount of humour that prevailed this year's season of films; and am astounded by the limits being pushed by the likes of Adam Ondra and Alex Honnold. Adam's showdown with Chris Sharma in Dura Dura was hilarious—along with the antics of the Wide Boys. The cinematography in the Shark's Fin was breathtaking.

Take care while climbing over the summer period and make sure you stay hydrated! (Oh dear, I sound like my mum now!)... Climb safe, take lots of photos and send them into the Western Climber.

We need to build up the CAWA committee for 2013—Please come to the AGM and nominate for a position to support your local WA climbing community. Contact Kate or Tony to discuss what positions are available, what it is like being on the committee (we don't bite—honest!!!) and what would be expected of you.

Kate and I apologise profusely for the lateness of this Western Climber. We were caught up in very busy jobs and a lot of travel for work towards the end of last year; and our plans to get the Western Climber out for Holiday reading didn't quite pan out.

We will be welcoming a new Co-Editor **Mandy Bowler** for 2013. Mandy is an amazing photographer (check out her photos from the Eaglestone Rock trip in this edition!), so we are very excited as our engineering minds aren't the best at visual creativity :)

Here's to a brilliant 2013 ahead—lots of climbs, lots of projects ticked off and lots of fun to be had. See you at the AGM and hope that you will continue to support CAWA!

Kate Swain and Allison Low
Editors - Western Climber

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tony has had to step out for a while, but should hopefully be back soon to give the President's Report at the AGM and his enthusiasm to the CAWA team that he is well known for and greatly missed! In the mean time I'm stepping in as Acting President, so here's my report for the last quarter.

The 2012 year has been packed with fun-filled CAWA events and that just seems to have made the time fly by! The last quarter has seen four CAWA trips organised: one to the increasingly popular Eaglestone Rock in the Wheatbelt of WA, one to Mt Frankland over the Queen's Birthday long weekend, the third to Willyabrup and finally the ever popular Albany / West Cape Howe trip over the New Years Eve break. The stunning tights, camera, action! of the Eaglestone Rock trip has been beautifully captured by CAWA member and professional photographer Mandy Bowler. The Mt Frankland slab extravaganza weekend was organised and recounted by multi-talented CAWA Secretary Mark Kleinman, while the Willyabrup and Albany trips were organised and captured by 2012's CAWA AGM Photography Competition winner, Anthony Brandis. By all accounts the trips were varied, challenging and enjoyed by all who went.

Interspersing the trips were other events, including the Rescue Practise day, attended by a dozen climbers who wanted to get together and refresh their prussic and self-rescue skills as well as pick up a few tips on how to prepare better for those days that just don't seem to go as planned. Thanks very much for Jonas and all those who attended, it was a great sharing and educational exercise which we hope to repeat again this year. The Knots Night Part 2 was also held thanks again to Mark K at Rosie O'Grady's. We also had the annual Christmas BBQ and boulder at Blackwall Reach, which was well attended with a complimentary slackline setup by Anthony B, as well another movie night hosted by City Summit. Phew! There's been a lot going on!

Locally there has been some access dialogue with DEC regarding access to Churchman's Brook, where DEC plan to upgrade the trail and construct a lookout over the cliff, and decommission the steps down to the base. They have also informed CAWA that they will be installing signage to warn people that climbing is dangerous and to do so at their own risk, so expect a few changes to the crag access in the next few months. DEC are also aware of the recent rockfall from the Skywalker Wall in Mountain Quarry, and are planning another geotech survey of the cliff face to determine stability and therefore risk to people in the quarry, which will result in possible changes to management of climbing on the face going forward.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for another block-buster AGM this year with local climbing legend Rick Allen giving us a first hand account of his recent first ascent of Nanga Parbat by the Mazeno Ridge, which is not to be missed. We definitely have a very talented group of climbers in WA, despite the lack of mountains. With the majority of the climbing in WA being quite remote, it seems to encourage exploration and adventure. New routes all over WA by climbers such as Phil, Remi, Ross, Kym, Brian and Neil year after year shows the dedication and drive to explore and expand WA climbing. Thanks for all your hard work, time and money that has gone into the sport.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Western Climber, as well as the new routes and adventures you're hopefully shared along the way. If you'd like to get involved and become a part of the team, feel free to get in contact with myself or any of the other CAWA team members as we're looking for some more enthusiastic and like-minded people to join us for the 2013 year.

Kate Swain
Acting CAWA President



CAWA 2013 PHOTO COMPETITION

Lots of great prizes to be won and get featured in the renowned 2013 CAWA Calendar—who will make Centrefold???

Photos by 30 January 2013 to kates@climberswa.asn.au

Rules & regulations for submitting the photo will be available on the CAWA website. Good luck and may the best shot win!!!



THE CLIMBERS ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

2013 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6pm – 9pm, Wednesday 27 February 2013

Woolnough Lecture Theatre, The University of Western Australia



Photo courtesy of Dream Guides, Sardinia Rock Climbing

THE CAWA STATE OF THE NATION

APPOINTMENT OF THE 2013 CAWA COMMITTEE

PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

2013 CLIMBING CALENDARS (\$10) FOR SALE

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We are excited to have a Guest Presentation by world-famous mountaineer

RICK ALLEN

Ascent of Nanga Parbat by the Mazeno Ridge



The ascent of Nanga Parbat along the Mazeno Ridge. Photograph by Doug Scott.



*Rick Allen on the ridge above Camp 2.
Photo by archivo.www.mazenoridge.com*



Sandy Allan and Rick Allen recovering at base camp. Photo by Peter Beaumont, The Observer.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Kate & Allison

Hello, Bill Darby here - you probably don't know me but I am a (very) novice CAWA member.

I have just finished reading the latest Western Climber (Issue 010) and want to congratulate you on a great publication.

It is really well put together with a great mix of articles covering the whole spectrum of climbing, from local indoor stuff right through to epic overseas adventures. And I really liked the bios on the CAWA Committee and Oldies.

Plus the superb photos are the icing on the cake.

Thanks for the considerable effort you have put into this - it's appreciated.

As for me, I have just spent a week at Blue Lake, Kosciuszko National Park on a Basic Mountaineering Course and doing a little climbing in hard conditions (lots of snow and high winds). I am off to New Zealand in 6 weeks for a 5 week tramping and climbing trip to hopefully achieve Tongariro, Taranaki, a Technical Mountaineering Course and a guided climb of a couple of the Southern Alps summits (weather permitting).

Thanks & congratulations,
Bill Darby



Bill,

Thanks for your message and compliments! It is awesome to hear from a reader and get some feedback. When we set out in reviving the mag, the aim was always to have mix of articles that would suit all climbers.

We can't take any credit for the articles and photos—they are from the amazing contributors that support us. We just splice the lot together & make sure that it gets out on a regular basis to entertain, educate and inspire CAWA members. Putting it together is actually quite a joy.

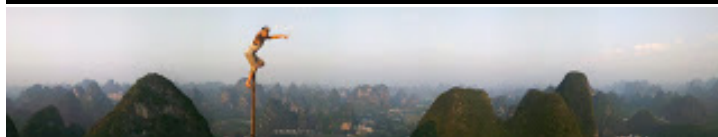
P/S We look forward to your first hand account of what it is like transitioning to Alpine climbing—I'm sure some of our readers out there might be thinking of doing the same! *hint* *hint*

~Kate & Allison~

OFF BELAY

News and gossip from the vertical world. Send in some gossip about someone or we'll make something up about you (seriously... we will...).

LOGAN IN YANGSHOU



Logan Barber has been in Yangshou before Christmas and attempting some new projects. Back at his favourite crag, a 40m wave of limestone called Lei Pi Shan ("Thunder and Lightning Mountain"—he spotted an epic central line that became his focus for the rest of his trip.



Photo (Extreme Top): Logan on top of Moon Hill
Photo (Top): Staring up at Lei Pi Shan (Photo by JJ O'Brien)
(Photos courtesy of Logan's blog site)

Logan has christened the route "Storm Born", keeping in theme with the crag. When finished, he thinks the line will be around a Grade 32 / 33 and an absolute classic! He did not manage to send the entire line, but looks forward to going back and finishing it.

PRO SHOP

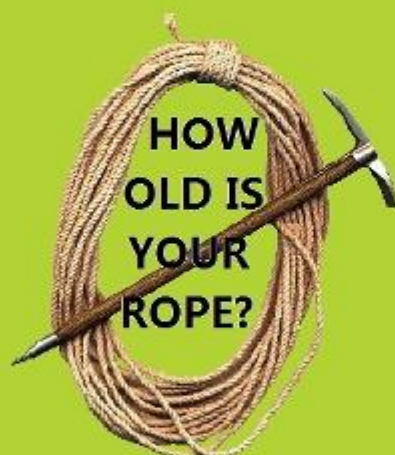
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TREASURER'S REPORT

Report by Kylie West, Images by Mark Kleinman

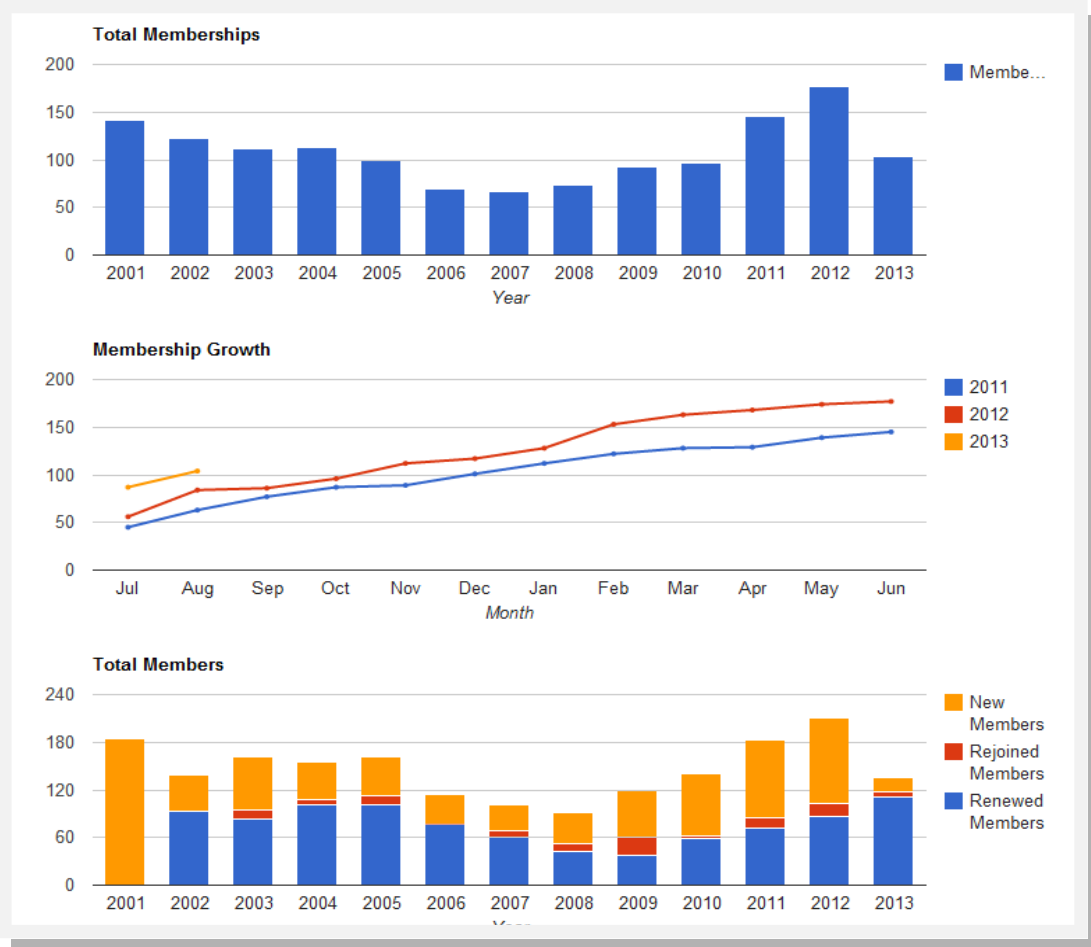
Aside from a small presentation as part of the AGM each year, it is not often that an update is provided about the current status of CAWA memberships. I thought I would take the opportunity to do this in the Western Climber so that members could see exactly where the Association stands in terms of numbers and also what the membership trends have been over the last five years or so.

CAWA's membership is indeed very healthy. The Association has gone from strength to strength by building on the solid foundations laid down a few years ago. The membership numbers continue to increase each year, and in addition to an overall increase in numbers, the number of new members has also increased.

The ABC has also got on board and used its program *Randling* (Andrew Denton you sexy little nugget) to introduce climbing to its viewers in a True/False segment where the contestants had to guess if the ludicrous names given were actually the names of real climbs. Boom! Suddenly all ABC viewers in Western Australia turn to climbing as a healthy outdoor pursuit and promptly join CAWA. Or perhaps I'm watching too much TV?

What is obvious is that CAWA continues to be a valued and well regarded Association by its members and also within the wider community. This is demonstrated by our ongoing positive working relationship with stakeholders such as the Department of Environment and Conservation

CAWA Membership Trends



I would not like to speculate on a single reason for this trend; rather I think there are a number of different factors at play. Certainly the CAWA committees of past years as well as the current committee have put in many, many hours of time and effort to keep the Association alive and well. I also feel that climbing in general seems to be gaining popularity as an activity. I (loosely) base this on the fact that *Better Homes and Gardens* recently showed how to install climbing holds onto your kids' bedroom walls.

(DEC) and the climbing gyms. And let's be honest, the discounts that have been negotiated at the gear shops and gyms are quite attractive too.

CAWA has never been about meeting or exceeding membership targets or about fattening the bank account. However, the current committee has been heartened by the steady increase in memberships as it's one way to tell we are (mostly) getting it right for our members. It's possible that this may reflect an increase in the popularity of climbing in Western Australia, which can only be a good thing.

ACCESS

CHANGES AT CHURCHMANS BROOK

CAWA were contacted by DEC in November 2012 resulting from management actions to be undertaken that was triggered by a geotechnical investigation that DEC commissioned of Churchman's Brook in May 2011. DEC engaged geotechnical engineers to undertake an assessment of the rock wall and provide recommendations to address potential risks.

Engineers reported evidence of minor rock falls and localised debris slides. Given this, DEC requested a meeting to discuss recommendations from the report and management actions to be implemented on site. A meeting was held on Tuesday 4th Dec 2012 between CAWA and DEC.

The meeting was with two DEC employees, Brad Johnson, DEC Operations Manager Regional Parks and Renee Evans, Area Manager Regional Parks Unit. The meeting was not consultative as first thought, but was informative, and was used as a forum where DEC described their management actions in detail for their plans for signage changes and for trail work at Churchman's Brook, to take place in the near and mid term (funding for works to be available 2013 / 2014).

The main risk identified from the geotechnical survey by StrucTerre was rockfall. As a result, DEC has decided that they will not manage climbing at Churchman's Brook. According to the DEC, climbing will be an unmanaged activity. This means that;

1. Climbing will be undertaken entirely at the risk of the climbers;
2. The DEC will take no actions on the crag to facilitate climbing or make it safe. Thus there will be no attempt to mitigate rockfall by any means. There will be no interference with the cliff, there will be no DEC placed or inspected anchors. There will be no attempt to make the top of the crag safe;
3. There will be signs warning people that it is dangerous to approach the rockface (and possibly recommending that they climb at the quarries); and
4. As a DEC managed area, not managed for climbing, no commercial group will be able to climb at Churchman's.

The DEC is planning to establish an official walking trail from the car park and install a platform that will overlook the crag. Exact details are yet to be obtained, however, the description provided in the meeting is for the walking trail to be established along the existing path towards the cliff, then join the bottom of the old concrete stairs at the south end of the crag. At the end of the trail, that is at the bottom of the southern stairs, there will be signs warning walkers not to proceed further, and will describe dangers such as rockfall, unsafe cliffs, etc. Near the bottom of the stairs they will build a small level area which they described as a viewing platform. This will be close to the bottom section of the stairs and nowhere near the top of the crag. DEC will destroy the bottom most section of the stairs for two purposes; firstly to build the viewing platform; secondly because officially there is to be no path beyond the viewing platform.

Diagrams and further details will be supplied by the DEC in the future. When available, CAWA will post this information on its website and in the Western Climber.

As stated above, the extent and timing of the works are dependant on funding, but are expected to occur along with some official statement from DEC in 2013 / 2014.

Kate Swain
Acting CAWA President

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TWO WEEKS IN TARN

Article and Photos by Brian Tan

The exact moment eludes my recollection, but it was October 2011 and we were probably having a long day (i.e. an epic) on a big wall in Yosemite when Remi and I agreed that our next trip would be somewhere not too cold, clipping bolts, with short walk-ins.



Photo: Welcome to Gorges Du Tarn (Photo by Gesa)

Like many other good ideas and cultures of bacteria, the seed of a thought germinated and plans were hatched. Delphine and Remi had family to visit back in France...and apparently there was good climbing there.

Lozere was the location that was decided upon; as there were “Gorges du Tarn”, “Gorges de la Dourbie” and “Gorges de la Jonte” in the region that offered plenty of climbing (i.e. more than 2,000 climbs in a 50km radius).

So in early August 2012, Delphine and Remi headed back to the land of croissants, cheese and wine with Gesa and I following a few days later.

Delphine organised a “gîte*” in a village that wasn’t on our GPS, but surely directions from Google Maps were good enough.... Forty-five minutes of driving around exploring the French countryside and asking directions twice (once from another car that was equally lost) led us to the Gîte de Souleirrol. It sleeps 14 people, which was handy to fit Remi and Delphine’s family and friends... Yes, it has a climbing wall, but even better it has a spa. (<http://gite-de-groupe-causses-cevennes.com>)

We were hoping to catch up with a few other Perthites along the way. We briefly saw Brenton at an airport in China (we flew via China – which in itself is a different story/experience) before he got whisked away by security for looking dodgy, either that or he was upgraded to a better flight with better food. We heard he eventually made it to Switzerland, where he had some epic multi-pitch adventures with Nathan. Maybe they will provide an article for Western Climber (*hint* *hint*).

We also saw Rob V for one morning in Tarn before he decided to head over to Egypt...something about soaking his worn out elbows in the Red Sea in 50 degree heat after his time in the Alps.

We were fortunate to be able to catch-up with Logan who had been travelling around for the last 6 months, climbing hard and sometimes scary things (see his ascent of the Fish), and generally crushing rocks with his bare hands in



Photo: Safety First (Photo by Delphine)



Photo: Mario Kart Action (Photo by Remi)

between hanging out with the likes of Adam Ondra and Sasha DiGiulian.

About the climbing...well there is lots of it with many different styles. In "Gorges du Tarn", there are over 700 routes with plenty of development since 1997 (there was some development previously in the 80's). The area is known for long routes (plenty over 35m and some up to 90m) and consisted mainly of climbs graded around the French 6, 7 and 8's (grades 19 – 33). Most crags were easily accessible – pull over to one of the parking areas on the



side of the road and then walk around 5 minutes and you're ready to climb. The setting is quite picturesque, big walls of rock with the River Tarn flowing at the bottom of the valley; plenty of greenery around and old stone buildings with oodles of character not too far away.

Before we arrived, there were concerns around closure of some routes/areas due to re-bolting but, as luck would have it, the majority of the main areas had been finished recently and a new guidebook had been released just as we entered the region.

The conditions in Tarn were seriously warm on the first week we were there. Still, we tried to make the most of it, hitting the crags early and chasing the shade, and trying to get used to the rock. Once we burnt out from the heat, it was down to the river to cool off with a swim.

After a couple of days we decided that it was better to just wait until the shade had hit the walls and climb later in the day seeing as the sun didn't set until around 9.30pm, this still left plenty of time for climbing. This also meant that we could also sleep in a bit longer and let our body recuperate from never ending dinners. These featured an entree (rockmelon, pâté, foie gras, "saucisson", salad), a bountiful main ("patates", "canard", paëlla...), the large plateau de fromage and a desert of course. Always starting with the inevitable aperitif – we couldn't say no to a trendy glass of "rosé /pamplemousse ****" one night, a muscat, a kir or a Pineau de Charente the other night.

Photo (Left): 5c tree top rope not in the guidebook
Photo (Bottom): Cliffs of Saint Grey (Both photos by Remi)



*Photo: Evening shot of Logan on "Tu Me Dezolve"
(Photo by Geza)*



*Photo: Delphine on Öne Man Chaud"
(Photo by Brian Tan)*



It wasn't until the second week that the weather started to really cool off and "sending temps" arrived. Unfortunately this also coincided with some sickness in our group, with Gesa, Delphine and I being stricken by gastro. Perhaps it was our stomachs rebelling over the copious amounts of rich food or perhaps it was just a tip of the hat to Kenny Chan's legendary collection of stories about faecal matter? In any case sh*t happens, on the plus side the instant weight loss meant that we would be lighter and thus theoretically should be flying up the climbs; on the minus side the lack of sleep, coupled with dehydration, low energy and keeping an eye out for potential spots to dig a hole meant that we targeted shorter climbs and minimal time in the harness. There was one day when I recalled needing to have a sit down and rest after the walk-in...which was a 5 minute approach. This was followed by a lie-down after every climb as standing or sitting was taking too much energy. But we still got some climbing in.

During our 2 weeks in the area we had 12 days of climbing and made it to 10 different areas (including 2 in "Gorges de la Jonte"). Some of the days were light on, such as when we setup top ropes so that a few beginners could give climbing a go. One day, we organised to bring friends and family around for a pleasant afternoon of initiation at an area called "Face de figures". Reading the guidebook, it



Photo (Left): Remi topping out on “L’arete ouest” with “Les vases des Chine” in the background (Photo by Brian)

Photo (Middle): La Malene (Photo by Delphine)

Photo (Bottom): Figes Au Cul, just one of the short walk-ins at Gorges du Tarn (Photo by Brian)



looked like a great beginner crag with a few routes equivalent to grades 12 to 16 Ewbank, some shade, flat ground to hang out and some recent bolts. Unfortunately, as we approached the area, we smelt some unpleasant odours - this place was covered in human waste and toilet paper. As the crag is really small, most people must not have realised that it was a climbing area. Even though there was no emergency toilet sign, with only being 10 metres from the roadside it must’ve been the preferred spot in the whole gorge! We still managed to climb but probably wasn’t a shining example of climbing for beginners.

A better option was the “La Muse” area, where everyone from beginner to advance found themselves a challenge. While Remi was working on “Buffet froid” (a 7b reminiscent of “Be Free” at Wallcliffe); Logan and I were jumping on some of the steeper routes. Meanwhile, Delphine impressed with her determination, she successfully ticked “Farcie par là” (6a) on her third attempt after solving its technical puzzle. Delphine’s

mum who just celebrated her 60th birthday climbed for the first time ever. Then came Delphine Aunty's turn to have a go, but once she was a few meters up, she panicked and lost consciousness for a few seconds; luckily she recovered soon after.

In amongst the climbing we squeezed in other activities such as canoeing down the river, checking out the nearby cave - Aven Armand and visiting the local "fromagerie".

Some highlights were:

Meeting new people, along with the friendship and generosity that they extended to us.

The food, from a quality and quantity perspective including the multitude of cheeses (when our stomachs would let us eat). A quote from Logan after a considerably heavy lunch and dessert one day: "I'd rather have crème brûlée and climb like crap than not have crème brûlée at all".

Experiencing climbing on some awesome routes in a different land with good friends from home.

Seeing Logan sending a ridiculous number of 8a's (grade 29 Ewbank) in a very short time (mostly on his 3rd go) and also an impressive ascent of "Priez pour nous" 8a+.

Cheering Remi fight the pump to tick off "Les ailes du désir" (The wings of desire) 7b+ 35m - a classic route on the Tennessee wall. The 8a extension will have to wait until next time.

Trying my hand at several 8a's and ticking my first 8a... it will be most likely be downgraded in the future as the beta we ended up using would have the French saying "facile".

Learning a new card game "6 qui prend" and playing Mario Kart on Nintendo Wii during our down time.



Photo: Logan crushing "Buffet Froid" (Photo by Gesa)



Photo: Gesa on "Farcie Par La" (Photo by Brian)



Photo: Remi on "Tarn is Business" (Photo by Brian)

Marvelling at the grace of the large vultures of the area gliding effortlessly, especially whilst climbing close to them on the classic (and exposed) multi-pitch route "L'arete ouest" at "Gorge de La Jonte". Maybe they were circling watching climbers or perhaps waiting for climbers to fall?



Photo: Logan on "Priez Pour Nous"(Photo by Gesa)

Alas two weeks goes by quite quickly and before we knew it was time to head off. Logan was going to make his way to Spain to do more crushing in Rodellar (you can keep up with his adventures at <http://loganclimbsrocks.blogspot.com>). Myself and Gesa had a few days bouldering in Fontainebleau, getting schooled by French grandpa's cruising up problems without so much as a boulder pad (but instead a small bit of carpet to clean their shoes).

Remi and Delphine headed further west to see more family and squeeze in another day of climbing in the Lot department (South West of France) with an old friend. They checked out some more crags including the up and coming spot of "Saint Gery" along the river Lot. Recently featured in the French Climbing Magazine "Grimper", Saint Gery was described as "one of the most complete cliffs, far from any stereotypes and bringing a multitude of styles". Remi couldn't believe his eyes when he saw the quality of some of the routes.

Remi's recap of Saint Gery in short:

- * 15 minute walk in to the 1st cliff from the "Boulangerie-pâtisserie".
 - * 165 routes (a few easy routes, more than 120 in the grades 6-7 and 20 harder ones).
 - * Face, slabs, cracks, tufas, overhangs.
 - * 1km limestone cliff (up to 35m high).
- A perfect place to project a personal best!*

No doubt Remi and Delphine will be climbing there on their next trip to France which could be around September 2014. Perhaps a CAWA trip could be considered if there was interest?

Beta for Gorges du Tarn

1. The best time to visit is April to October. Climbing is possible all year round but winter months can be cold and wet.
2. The main climbing crags are situated between the villages of Les Vignes and La Malene.
3. Getting to one of the larger towns nearby (such as Montpellier 170km away) via plane, train or bus and then hiring a car is potentially the easiest way to get around. There are also trains and busses from Montpellier to Millau a reasonable sized town which is 30km away from the climbing action, and have some options for car hire.
4. There are a few camping facilities situated in the area – Camping Beldoire and Camping La Blaquiére or alternatively there are many gîtes in the area too (check out <http://www.gites-de-france.com/>).
5. The guidebook is available at local shops such as "tabac" in Les Vignes, we also saw signs for it at shops in the nearby village Le Rozier. We picked ours up from the small shop at Camping Beldoire.

Survival Phrases

gîte^{*} - furnished vacation home in France that is available for rental, especially in a rural setting

Priez pour nous^{**} - Pray for us

Les ailes du désir^{***} - The wings of desire

rose/pamplemousse^{****} - A glass of rosé mixed with grapefruit cordial that has become a popular drink in recent years

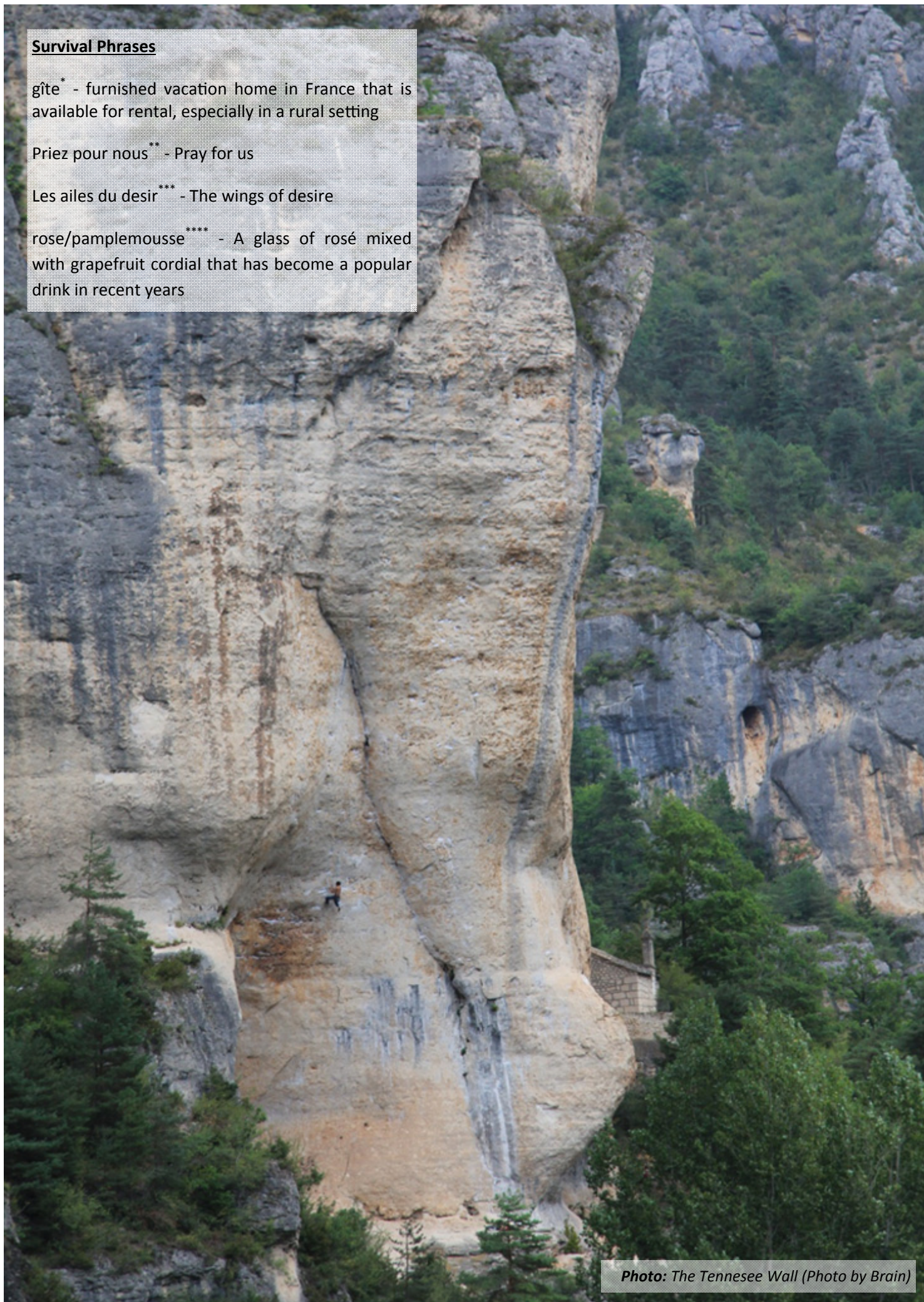


Photo: The Tennessee Wall (Photo by Brain)



Photo: Rimpfischhorn 4199m - the fun bit up to the top.

ROSS & PETE ALPS TRIP 2012

Article and Photos by Peter Thomas.

I gave up Alpine climbing 29 years ago. I had climbed in the European Alps 1978-1983, finishing up with the famous Matterhorn in 1983. The previous year, I had done some good stuff but failed on Mont Blanc, the highest mountain in the area. Then “real life” kicked in: I got a boring job, got married, procreated and lived in out-of-the-way parts of the world. Ross is a comparative latecomer to alpinism, but ticked both the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc last year. He persuaded me out of retirement to resume my alpine career in August-September of this year (2012). He had done five 4000-ers in the European Alps (4000+ metre peaks), to my meagre four. This was my chance to catch up.

We flew into Geneva and, having opted for a no-car, use-public-transport strategy (a good one, I think), we jumped onto the train and then bus to Saas Grund. This sits in the next valley east of the better known Zermatt valley, which has the Matterhorn at its head. We had a meticulously organised sports plan which involved a long list of ascents, perfect weather and a half day’s rest on Day 6 (or was it Day 7?). Following the plan, we took the cable car and a

short walk up to the Weissmies Hut, acclimatised to the altitude swiftly overnight, and headed up the WSW Ridge of the Lagginhorn (4010m) in the morning.

Being the weekend, quite a few other people had had the same idea, but we made good speed. It was easy scrambling, though a thin smattering of fresh snow from some overnight weather kept it interesting. Our speed up paled by comparison to our speed escaping off the summit – it was very windy and effing cold (freezing cold, of course). Steep snow at the top and a wimpy little glacier at the base of the steeper climbing allowed me to use crampons for the first time in 29 years. Luckily I avoided any undignified trips or going a--e over t--s at speed downhill.

It was when we reclaimed our gear from the hut and did a short walk uphill to another one, the Hohsaas Hut, that we discovered we were stuffed. It was slow going. But still on plan, we got up seriously early next morning and headed for the classic North Ridge of the Weissmies (4017m). This is 2 kilometres of mostly rock scrambling, but with

three or four tricky bits with fixed gear that required pitched climbing. It finishes with a nice snow ridge up to the summit. Getting started on the ridge was quite a kerfuffle, not being accustomed to such climbing. We tried to avoid committing to the really exposed crest of the ridge, thinking there had to be a more tame approach. There wasn't. We had just learned that classic alpine ridges can be quite exciting.

Ross acclimatised well to the altitude, but I was going really slowly when we hit the final snow ridge. We had this summit to ourselves, and the weather was very pleasant, with great views. The descent was down a steep glaciated face – see photo (the one with the moon in it). We made it back to the cable car before it closed, and hit the valley for a weather update.



Photo: Ross descends Lagginhorn (4010m)



The weather had not read the script, and some deviation from the sports plan was necessary. We had 2 days before bad weather appeared, which rendered the planned Weisshorn (long and serious) a bad idea, as we'd need a rest day before hiking up to the Weisshorn Hut (no cable car – shock horror). So we went around to Zermatt, and fashioned a Plan B. Next day we took the cable car and a short walk up to the Berghaus Flue hut – overlooking a pretty little alpine meadow. Our objective from 4am the following morning was the normal route up the Rimpfischhorn (4199m, WSW Ridge).

Photo: Ross on North Ridge of Weissmies

We did a lot of steep uphill walking in the dark before reaching a long vague rocky ridge from which we could see the summit pyramid. A bare, easy glacier took us up to a steep chossy rock band, then another easy glacier section. This is where the photo was taken from. The final bit was fun, albeit pretty cold again. From a steep snow/ice couloir, we stepped left onto quite steep scrambling terrain. Mostly moving together, the route was about the trickiest you'd like to encounter in boots in cold conditions with sparse protection. It was a user-friendly summit, with fantastic views and just a handful of other people. See photo of the Red Team smiling stupidly for the camera. The descent was uneventful, and fortunately we again made it back to the cable car in time for an easy descent to town. When you're getting on a bit (like Ross), a descent on foot after missing the last cable car would be mighty unpleasant on the knees. Three days of fresh and somewhat unseasonal snow fell on all the peaks. The sports plan was in disarray.



To keep acclimatised, and to take advantage of any break in the weather, we took the cable car up to the Klein Matterhorn (3883m). There's a new "Lodge" up there, where an overnight stay costs no more than a cheap hotel in Zermatt. The staff all disappear to the valley for the night, and we were there with two Romanians and their bottle of schnapps for company. It doesn't take much of that stuff at 3883m....! Next morning we had a great view of the snow piling up at the doors of this place, and little else. The weather didn't break, but the cable car did. The 4 of us and about 5 staff (who came up before it broke) were stranded. Eventually a snow plough chugged up and rescued us, taking us down miles of ski runs in the white-out.

Photo: Evening shot of Weissmies (4017m)

The snow reached virtually down to Zermatt. The morning we left, the Matterhorn could be seen again – brilliant white, in sharp contrast to a few days prior. We headed by train and bus to Chamonix, attempting to resurrect the sports plan. Neil and Kate were there, fresh down from watching the snow fall at the Envers Hut. The sports plan said take the cable car across the Vallee Blanche from the Aiguille du Midi to the Torino Hut on the Italian side of the massif. Problem was, the section across the Vallee Blanche was closed for maintenance. Neil and Kate had the same plan at this point, which was just as well, because crossing the Vallee Blanche on foot would have been quite dodgy with just two people.



Photo: Ross a few metres below summit of Rimpfischhorn

Normally there's a big trail to follow, weaving around all the crevasses. Fresh snow meant there was no such trail, and nobody else daft enough to be attempting the crossing. We frequently fell into crevasses up to our waist – this was when three other people on the rope seemed like a good idea. Beyond the Pointe Adolphe Rey, there were more crevasses than glacier, and we tried several options to find a way across, each time finishing at a chaos of seracs. Refusing to give up, Ross made one last foray through the maze – and it worked! Via a weird tunnel feature, we linked up with another party's abortive attempt from the other direction.

And so to the Torino Hut, where, in the middle of nowhere at 3375m, a cold beer was considerably cheaper than in Perth. The plan said to do the Dent du Geant (4013m, "Giant's Tooth"), so we did. Normally very popular, with queues on the rock climbing of the summit spire, it was covered in snow and deserted. I'll say no more, as Ross is writing an article on this one. [In which, of course, anything remotely unflattering about me is all lies....!]

We tried to do a climb on the Tour Ronde (3792m) the following morning, but made a bad choice of climb (rocks falling down it) and felt majorly stuffed (me anyway). So we headed for the cable car down into Italy, and took the smart approach to crossing back to Chamonix on the

French side – a lift through the Mont Blanc tunnel! We needed a rest day and spent it trying parapente (each strapped to a Frenchman) and checking out the local gym.

And so to our final climb of the two week trip. Whisked up by cable car to the Aiguille du Midi, we looked down on the Frendo Spur. This featured on the sports plan, but the liberal sprinkling of snow on its long section of rock climbing was not. So instead we were heading for the Rebuffat route on the South Face of the Midi (3842m). In bright shiny weather the south face is supposed to clear quickly of snow, and we were not disappointed. Nor were all the other people on it. Luckily we'd foreseen this and started close to the front of the pack. It's 250m of superb climbing on immaculate granite, up to 6a (Gr 18), with a move or two of well bolted 6b at the top on the finish that we selected. Before the long rappel down, we had superb views to Mont Blanc, Dent du Geant, Grandes Jorasses, Aiguille Verte, the Dru, and the now-established trail across the Vallee Blanche..... it's all a lot more inviting in nice weather.



Photo: 7 Peter leads the S crack on Rebuffat Route on South Face, Aiguille du Midi (3842m)



Photo: 6 The Red Team - Ross (Left) and Peter (Right) on the summit of Rimpfischhorn

With Neil and Kate back at the Envers Hut, me and Ross celebrated the end of the trip back in Cham with a raclette (cheese orgy). We did four 4000ers in two weeks – not bad considering the weather, with the first three in the space of just four days. I've now done eight European 4000ers (albeit over 33 years). Trouble is, Ross has now done nine.

~ Peter Thomas

CITY SUMMIT OPENS ITS DOORS



Review by Ross Weiter

I was very excited! The much awaited City Summit Climbing Gym (www.citysummit.com.au) has finally opened two weeks ago and I was going to check it out. Not only it is the fourth near-CBD gym in Perth now, it is also the fourth gym within 7km of my front door. I have now been to ...let's see....The Overhang, Get Vertical, Pascal's, Escalade, Showgrounds (containers), Rockface, The Hangout and Urban Ascent and this one... That's all the gyms Perth's has ever had, nine of them....except for the one in Joondalup. Who needs real crags, eh?

I walked in, kitted up, fronted up to the rope induction....and then was faced with this:



The Click-Up belay device is the master mind of an Italian manufacturer Climbing Technology:

www.climbingtechnology.it/en-US/click-up/details.html



Photo (Top): One of the walls with the great cartoon animation that is part of the attraction of the gym.

Photo (Right): The Dream Catcher Wall, one that will challenge the most skilled climbers.

Photos obtained from the City Summit website



Yes, I have never heard of them either. Being old, crusty, and set in my ways, as soon as I spotted the shiny new thing I took an instant dislike to it. It resembles nothing else you have ever seen, but functionally it is a hybrid between the Gri-Gri and the (multitude of) belay tubes. Paying out rope is a cinch, but getting the thing to release from its locked-up position is f***-me tricky....it took both me and Liz three lowerings to **begin** getting it right. The inter-nerd seems to think it is a good thing though and I think it would be harder to drop someone with this than with either the tube or the Gri-Gri. So five stars for safety, two for frustration and learning curve.

Released from basic training, Liz, Pete and I have set onto the new plywood acreage like a pack of horny football players onto a drugged teenage beauty. Route after route went. OK that's enough of that.....

The City Summit gym is amazingly varied, in fact it is like several gyms rolled into one. This is the result of several design features: the gym is divided into three separate bays which are almost completely separate from each other. Each bay has a different decor and feel to it, and a huge variety of routes: flat faces, flat overhangs, overhanging aretes, exploded starburst things, built-in cracks. It will take me many visits to explore them all.

We then decided to do some leads, generally exploring routes in the 18-20 range, but there are some up to 30. For this we needed to do a lead induction...admirably the staff member did not faint when I tied on with a bowline (with a stopper knot) and did not tell me where to place my hands while handling the rope.

In some of these routes I found runouts, generally at the top, where I found myself doing dodgy balancy moves with the last draw below my feet. Sometimes there was a bolt hanger in the middle of the runout but no draw in it. WTF? Upon querying this practice I received two answers from a jovial staff member: (1) We make it run out, like a real crag, eh and (2) you are meant to bring your own draw for the last bolt. I am still smarting from both of them. Lets just say that I will be bringing my own draws now.

City Summit has many groovy innovations: little beanbags scattered about the floor which are nice to sit on, rubber sprung floor (like on outdoor playgrounds), decent music system with groovy chillout music to all the bays, open side garage door which lets in the cool evening air.

There are some peculiarities: whoever stocked the pro-shop seems fond of the colour orange and underdog brands, the staff have no view at all of the gym from the front counter (or across the gym), there were no visible tables or chairs to put packs on or have pizza, there are no slo-go pulleys (probably not necessary), harnesses are not allowed to be worn while bouldering (this is to do with loops getting caught on holds rather than fashion police) and the bouldering mushroom is an ankle-snapping 6m high.

I love it. All of it. With all its features, nice new grippy (non-greasy!) holds, all the weird pictures and the way-out there features. I have one request - can there please be enough holds around the bottom of the walls to allow for warming up by traversing? Good sized holds, not weeny slopers. There are some gaps now where there is nothing. A weight lifting bench would be useful also....this helps to prevent overuse injuries by getting people to cross-train. Well done, guys!!

PWR URBAN ASCENT RE-OPENS

PWR Urban Ascent has re-opened its doors to the public again, with a special CAWA members only opening night.

Oldies and newbies were there to celebrate and support James and his vision to keep the gym going; and provide another alternative for local climbers to get fit.

Tony bribed us with the promise of pizza and made sure that the crew had done sufficient work, before rewarding us with the pizza. The old favourite routes were still up on the walls, with plans for new routes in the coming months. Always a great location to train, with relatively quiet surroundings.

CAWA members receive a discount to Urban Ascent—so show your card for a special entry price.

The gym has been designed with a theme inspired by the deep red and yellow rocks of the Kimberly. There are 27 top rope climbing routes from Grades 12 to 24. There are also 7 lead climbing routes, and some unique crack climbs. The centre is occupied by an eye-catching large boulder with lots of cool problems.

Go try it out today, if you haven't done so already!



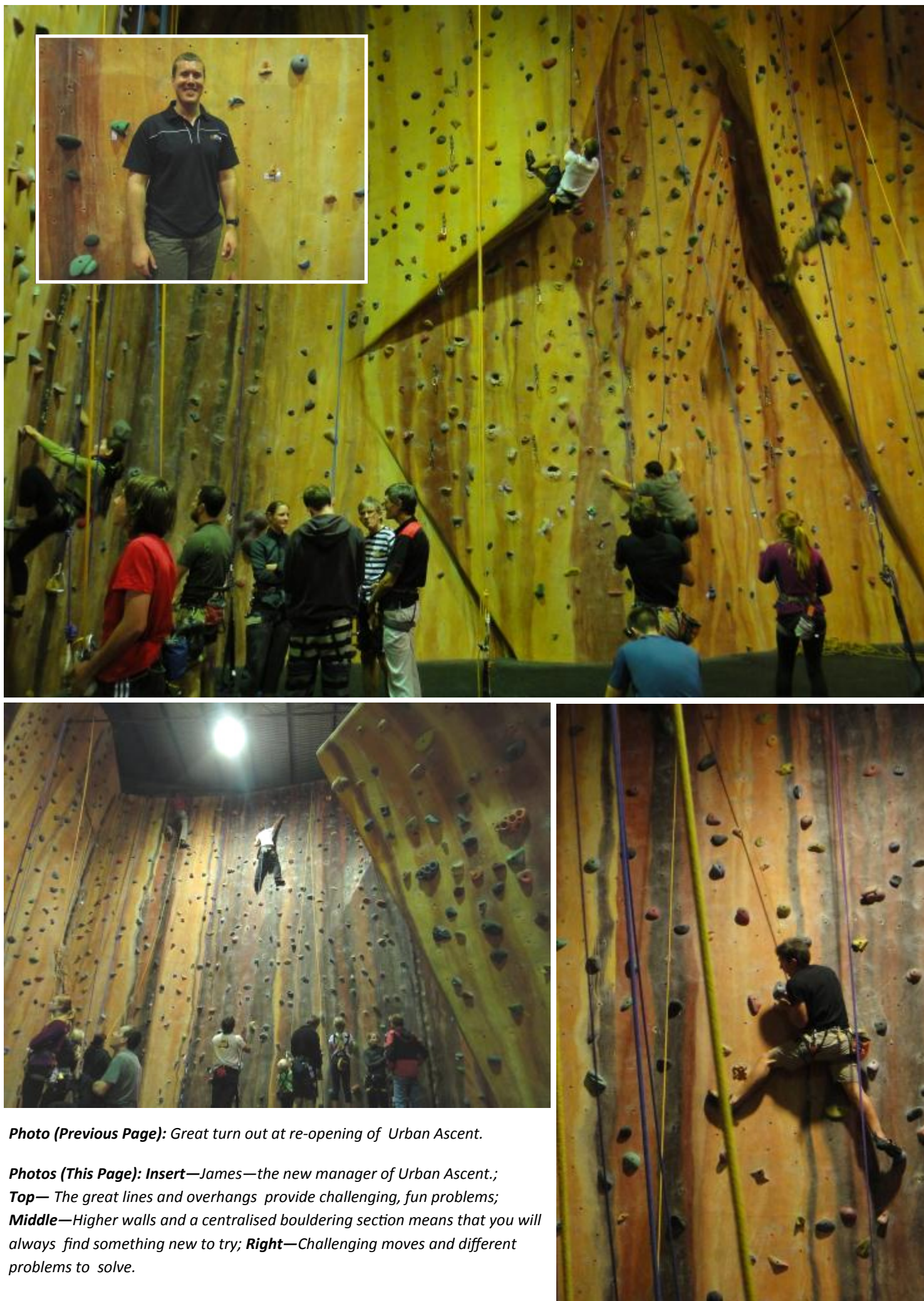


Photo (Previous Page): Great turn out at re-opening of Urban Ascent.

Photos (This Page): **Insert**—James—the new manager of Urban Ascent.;

Top— The great lines and overhangs provide challenging, fun problems;

Middle—Higher walls and a centralised bouldering section means that you will always find something new to try; **Right**—Challenging moves and different problems to solve.

CAWA TRIP REPORT—EAGLESTONE ROCK

Article and Photography by Mandy Bowler

Halfway to Kalgoorlie, on the edge of the Wheatbelt, lies Eaglestone Rock. The smallish granite outcrop is situated next to the picturesque Lake Brown and it makes the perfect place to spend a long weekend, camping and climbing.

We headed there with other CAWA members at the end of September, which is an ideal time to visit due to the heat and flies that would no doubt intrude during summer! Just to make the place more magical, the boys (Tim Dove was this your idea?) decided to reclaim the era of skin tight lycra. There were even some 80s moustaches. Freddie Mercury eat your heart out.

Jonas and I came down on the Friday morning to join Clive, Shaun and Josh who had arrived the previous night. Soon Tony, Mark and the main convoy arrived and we all got stuck into the Emu Wall and Mini Me Boulders. The wind was howling once you got about 10m off the deck on the Emu Wall and communicating with your belayer was nigh impossible, but it made for a fun climb. You Don't Know

Jack (17) and Pink Rings (18) were fantastic face climbs, with a hairy start leaning over from nearby boulders before getting purchase on a foothold. Pink Rings would have to be my favourite from the weekend. Sparrow (17) to the right of Pink Rings was also a favourite among the climbers, although with a few technical moves towards the top, looked a little treacherous on lead! Meanwhile round the corner, Chris redpointed the crazy Ithica (22). Most others struggled up on top rope at some point during the weekend...I loved that the first move was off a nearby tree, although I did feel a bit sorry for it. Chris (and a few others on the Sunday) tried their hand at Whiplash (25) on top rope and he nearly got it clean. Next time!

I took myself off during the late afternoon to get some sunset photographs of the salt lake and silhouettes of climbers walking around the top of Eaglestone and came back to find everyone finishing up and ready to get into some tucker and some camaraderie around the campfire.



Photo: Chilling at Sunset on the top of Eaglestone Rock, Photo by Mandy Bowler



More tight-clad folk (some with fairy wings!) arrived the next day and more fun climbs were had, in much less windy conditions. Fairies Nadia and Caren raced up the slabby Bad Seed (17), my second fave climb of the weekend - all footwork with just a couple of crimpy handholds. Round at Bitter (16 and appropriately named), I found the crux to be just a little frustrating, but with the rest of the climb probably only a 13. Challenging but not particularly enjoyable! Wishbone (17) changed all that – a fun route that was climbed many times over the weekend. Many climbers attempted to 'Fear the Smear' (21) which looked like it had lost a very necessary handhold at the beginning. I don't believe anyone did nail it on this trip, but please correct me if I'm wrong.

Shaun and crew attempted the tricky Cold Nights (18) which involved clipping the first bolt from within the crack and then attempting to scale a slabby concave formation and mantle over the lip to get to the second bolt. On the Sunday morning, Jonas managed to bridge the sides and 'gracefully' scramble his way over the lip to what he thought was the second and last bolt. Except that it wasn't. Lucky for the spare sling and biner on his harness, but that extra quickdraw would have come in handy ;)

Photo (Left): Hazel on Pink Rings (18)
Photo (Bottom): Caren Pearce using Fairy Power!





Photo: Eaglestone by Henry Cook

Round at the Mini Me Boulders, a couple of trad routes, Jaundice (14) and Mini Me (10) awaited. Pretty sure most thought Jaundice was slightly more challenging than a 14 but there you go! Mini Me was a lot of fun and Hazel, Mark's daughter, did her first trad lead, perfect placement and all. Definitely one to watch out for. I loved watching her zoom up Pink Rings (18) with style.



Back round at the Emu Wall and Levitation (19) was being attempted but it had such a tricky start that few could get off the ground. Old School Leaver (18) became a favourite, up the chimney and following the arete to the top.

Saturday night was stellar. A full moon rising, sitting around the campfire, eating kanga bangers, roasting potatoes and other delights in the coals of the fire, and of course, giving out the awards for the best dressed over the weekend. Honourable mentions were given to many, but Clive 'Wattle Blossom' Cullen and Jonas 'Candy Stripes' Hollingworth won equal first place. Well done lads, well done.

Sunday morning proved another beautiful sunny day and we all snuck in a few more climbs before heading back through the Wheatbelt to Perth. I did not want to leave. What a fantastic place not only to climb, but to have fun camping with your mates. There is something special about being isolated in the middle of nowhere with no one to hassle you, surrounded by the rock you're going to climb the next day. Can't wait till next time...



Photo (Top): CAWA Fright Tights
Photo (Right): Caitlin on Bad Seed (17)



Photo: *The Frightening Tights...* (Centre) Clive Cullen on Old School Leaver (18), (Top) Kim celebrates at the top, (Right) A patriotic Tim, (Left Top) Jonas rapping down in hunt for a new route and (Left Bottom) Josh on Wishbone (17) **Disclaimer:** CAWA and Western Climber are not responsible for any trauma that may result from the viewing of these images :)

CAWA TRIP REPORT—MOUNT FRANKLAND

Article by Mark Kleinman

What can I say, it was my first effort at organising a CAWA trip under the austere guidance of Tony B.

The weather was threatening, but we stuck to our plans. Rain, hail, sleet or snow we were going climbing. No mention of how much actual climbing was going to take place. Luckily for us it was a repeat of last year and the weather came good.

Interest in the trip was good and numbers were promising. As usual you never know who will actually arrive. So there was 3 of us: Ally, Tony and I heading south in Tony's car.

We headed down on Friday at lunch time. Our route happened to take us past Harvey (go figure) so we decided to drop in a dedicated CAWA Committee member, Kylie, who does a wonderful job managing the memberships. We also met one of the youngest climbers ever to ascend Mt Frankland. His name is Angus and he was cranking moves at 2 months in-utero. Kylie will correct me if I am wrong here. He was in fine form chewing on his wired nut which Kylie was using to pacify him, what a start to his climbing career! What's next? A hang-board for the crib?



Photo (Top): Tony and Mark on a slight detour to savour the delights of Kirup Syrup.

Photo (Right): Angus's favourite toy is a micro nut. Some sub-conscious conditioning?



Photo (Top): Tony Brebner, Mark Kleinman, Allison Low celebrating with the camp-site finally in view (Photo: Mark K)

Our trip continued, with a slight pause at Kirup tavern for an ale and some more photos. The DEC campsite at Fernhook Falls is on Beardmore Road off the South West Highway, 4.5 hrs drive south of Perth, and is a bit of a long drive even if you didn't go via Harvey. The turnoff to Beardmore Road is signposted so we did have to pause for some more obligatory photos.

We followed Beardmore Road for about 7 Km's to the campsite. I had received varied reports regarding the condition that the two huts were in so we came down prepared to tent, but we found one hut which looked reasonable so we took ownership. Hamish was already there, he was nicely camped in what I would rate as the best campsite to be found, and was wondering where we were. Guess going via Harvey wasn't the fastest way down here.

HINT 1: If you plan to occupy a hut, bring a padlock to lock the door when you head out for the day. It would also be a good idea to bring a broom so you can give it a sweep and keep it clean.

Dinner was great as we had the campsite to ourselves, Hamish brought out his cooker which, while it sounds like a jet engine preparing for take-off *and* looks just as awesome, it also produced a pot of hot water in no time. I gotta get one of those!

Breakfast the next day had us enjoying a meal with Hamish and Ross (who arrived over night as did many other people) and a few more CAWA trippers popping in and saying hello.



Photo (Top): Ross Weiter bolting Free Willy (38m, 18).

Photo (Right): Tony & Mark on Purring Pussies (36m, 18).

Photo (Bottom): Dena & Kylie rigging up.

Photo (Extreme Bottom): Start of Dreamweaver (95m, 16)

Saturday's weather was wonderful with the climbing gods deciding that our trip was worth rewarding with sunshine. Admittedly there were some damp patches and mossy bits but overall conditions were good, though it did get windy once you were above the tree tops.

Slab climbing is a different style of climbing to what you encounter in the Perth quarries, (though there is a small slab in Stathams). It requires good footwork and being able to trust your shoes because there are no big hand-holds.

Purring Pussies (36m, grade 16) was the first off the rank and yours truly was nominated to lead it. It is a well-equipped climb with 10 GIMB's and double ring bolts at the top. Nerves aside it was a good climb with sticky rubber. The last bolt was in the water and it had damp moss all around it so I just kept climbing and had to step through a damp patch to clip into the anchor. Just a little excitement to start the day.

Tony and Ally seconded it and all that excitement resulted in Tony needing a caffeine hit. So he took out his espresso maker and started expressing. Who says we don't come prepared? Meanwhile Ally and I had some unfortunate encounters with the local ants which wasn't fun.

The Boys (Oliver, Hamish and Quintin) were off ticking several routes including an adventure on Hannibal (70m, Grade 20).

Ross was making good use of this weekend and was putting up some new routes. I do take my hat off to him, selflessly spending his weekend finding routes and setting them up with no monetary gain just a bit of climbing immortality.

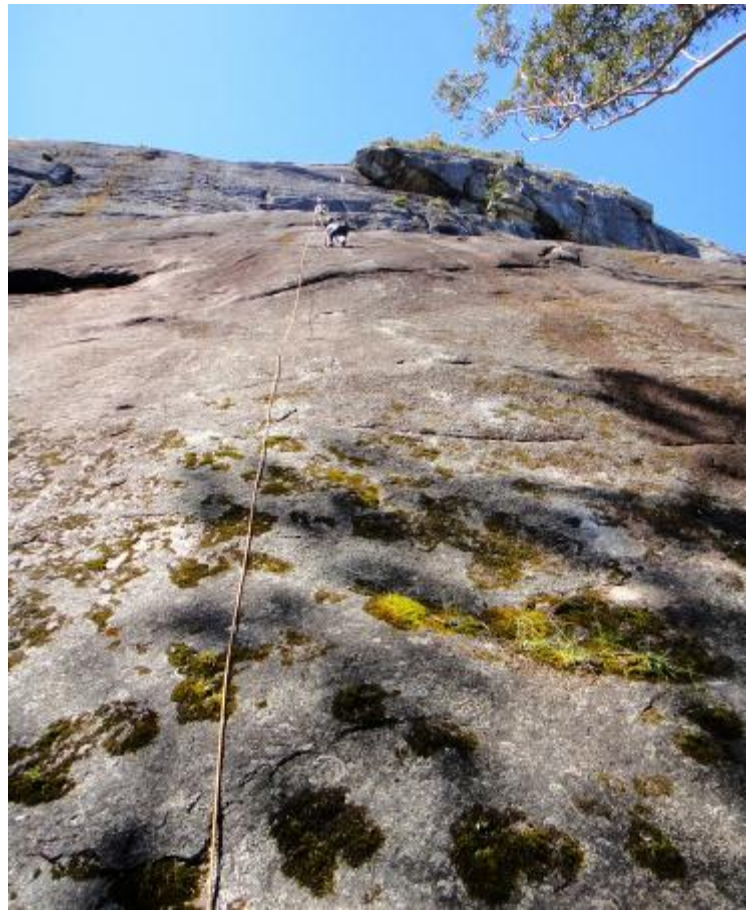




Photo (Top): A very cold night (4°C) at Fernhook Falls and **(Right)** in the shelter of a cabin with the first (very refreshing) bevvie.



Tony was primed now and had a go at Burmese Tiger (38m, grade 17) which is another well protected route. He sent that in style, which Ali and I seconded.

Dream Weaver (95m, grade 16) was attempted, Tony leading the first pitch with some 'exciting' moments as he got his first bit of trad pro in. I took the second pitch and enjoyed the great exposure (and run-outs). Tony attempted the final pitch but it was quite wet and we were unable to climb it, which was quite disappointing. So after enjoying the atmosphere at the top of the second pitch, we had to abseil off.

That night Dena and Kylie arrived, Kylie admitted feeling slightly guilty leaving Mount Frankland's youngest climber at home with his dad. After a quick dinner which involved sharing what you had with other people (Ali was the chief culprit here as she had enough for 2 if not 3 people) we then got the fire going which drew in the crowds, so we all had a few drinks and a social chat.

HINT 2: If you want a decent campfire you need to bring some wood to contribute and maybe some firelighters for the inexperienced.



Photo (Left): Ross bolting away & Hamish discussing the merits of his new route. **Photo (Top):** CAWA trippers enjoying (finally) some sunshine at the crag.

Sunday was blessed again with dry weather; although we saw some climbers depart for more coastal climbing. Everyone else headed back to Mt Frankland.

Dena and Kylie had a go at Burmese Tiger and Tony led Purring Pussies. He did not like the run-out at the end, although the water runnel had retreated, which meant he was able to get that bolt I missed the day before.

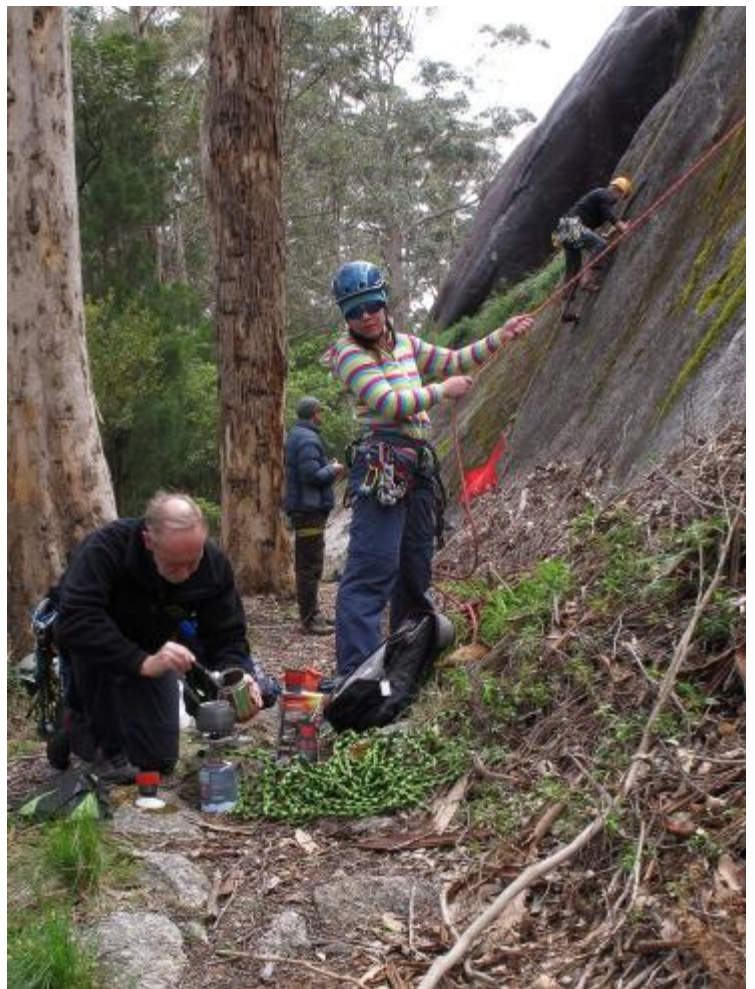
We also got to talk with some tourists walking the trail, climbing public relations never stops. There were a few kids walking past who were adamant that they were up to climbing with us.

Now came the moment to have a crack at climbing Free Willy (38m, grade 18) I managed the lead with advice from the bolter and it was a nice climb, "Thanks for the hard work Ross!". Tony and Ali seconded and both enjoyed the route immensely.

HINT 3: The toilet at Mt Frankland is top notch compared to the Fernhook Fumes ermm I mean Falls toilets.

So after a long weekend of some excellent climbing, we reluctantly packed up and headed back to reality.

I can see the attraction that has some climbers living the dirt bag lifestyle.



CAWA TRIP REPORT—WILYABRUP

Article by Anthony Brandis

Thanks to all of you who attended the Wilyabrup Trip in Nov/Dec, this was my first time organising one of the regular trips away, and can say that I had a great time doing so. With a number of climbers out-of-town, or snowed down with the end of year work, it was great to see new faces, and new CAWA members signing up, as well as regular climbers willing to lend a hand. This trip reminded me about the reasons I climb, and spurred me to keep working on a rock-climbing business plan.

Eleven climbers made the trip south, and explored the joys that the Wilyabrup sea cliffs have to offer. We suffered perfect weather on climbing days, only having to put up with the strong breezes known as Willy's.

The first day everyone was content getting onsite to warm-up, and pick routes to target.

All climbers climbed on similar grades between 17-19, with a 20 or 21 thrown in.

Notable ascents were from Szoke Szabolcs, aka the Romanian Rocket, onsighting nearly all climbs for the weekend. Szoke also did battle with Stainless Steel, a climb he had targeted from reading the guidebook before arriving in Australia. With a smooth onsight climb of Stainless Steel, and a grin ear-to-ear when he touched down, we hope to see more of your climbing finesse Szoke in subsequent climbing trips.



Photo (Left): Szoke On-Sighting Stainless Steel (Grade 21)

Photo (Bottom): Kate, Tim, Steve and Szoke getting rappelling

Photo (Next Page): Group shot of CAWA Wilyabrup Trippers, providing moral support (yes—it's a hard life!)





Photo (Left): Anthony hauling a** up a boulder start.

Photo (Bottom): Tired but happy group on the walkout.

Photo (Bottom Left): Timmy Happy-Tights Dove



Just about everyone completed the mega classic One for the Road, although someone thought it must have been a 120m single pitch climb (no names, Dickon Morris), who had enough kit on his harness to capsize a small boat, and hindered the last pull move at the top of the roof. Thanks to Dickon though who regaled us with stories of UK gritstone, and climbing in the regions around his home town.

Other great climbs were Totally Awesome, Rockfish Dreaming, Golden Butress (including a number of attempts of the overhanging direct bouldery start), and Fat Chance.

Tim Dove did the 'tight-wearing' contingent of the CAWA membership proud, strutting around in the Union Jack faves.

Back at camp – we had a mini BBQ, thanks to Nadia & Steve's weber, so nice to BBQ and have a post-climb beverage together, perusing the guide book for the next day's target climbs. Thanks guys!

Overall, a great fun trip squeezed in before the end of the working year. Hope to see you all on an upcoming trip soon!

Climbers: Karen, Anthony, Tim, Kate, Paul, Steve, Dickon, Nadia, Steve, Szoke + partner

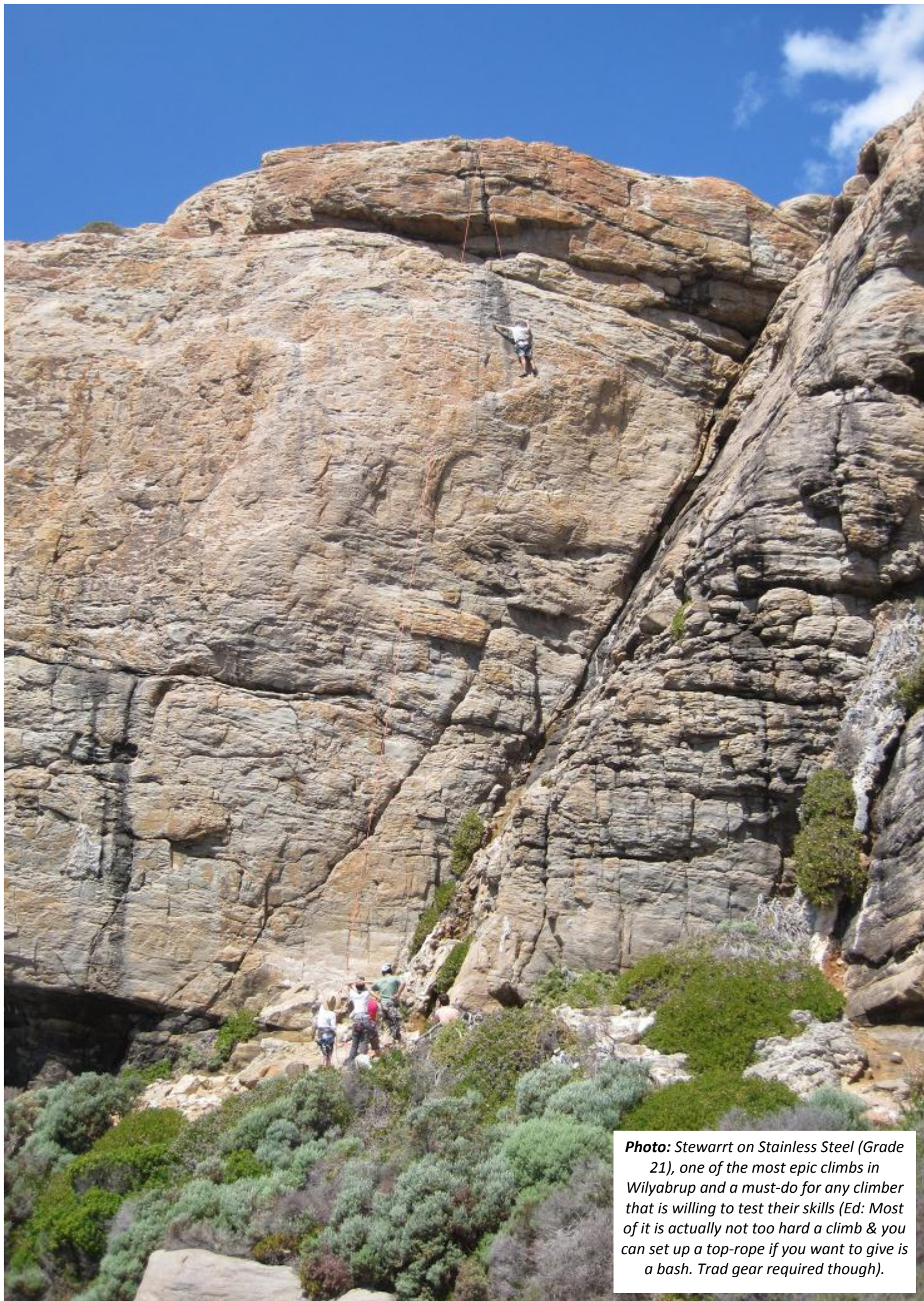


Photo: Stewart on Stainless Steel (Grade 21), one of the most epic climbs in Wilyabrup and a must-do for any climber that is willing to test their skills (Ed: Most of it is actually not too hard a climb & you can set up a top-rope if you want to give it a bash. Trad gear required though).

NEW ROUTES

Please send in details of new routes that have been established in Perth and WA climbing area. Photos and topos would be smashing if these are available! New routes can also be submitted to CAWA forum:

www.climberswa.asn.au/forum/first-ascents/

WEST CAPE HOWE

Posted by Ronald Master

The Last Goodbye (21, 55m) 2 x pitches

FA: Ronald Master, Ian Johnson

13 glue in bolts (hangers needed) and two DBB.

Approach: Walk to the mincer and at the top of the long face you will find two P bolts in the centre of the face between the Mincer and Striptease. Abseil from these down to a large ledge about 10m above the water with a double bolt belay. You will need a full rack of cams up to number 5 camelot including some micros plus a set of wires up to size 6 or 7 rocks.

Pitch 1 (19, 25m) 8 bolts: Start from the ledge and launch up the wall following a series of in-cut edges and flakes. Head straight up the wall following the flakes and bolts up solid rock with some interesting and fairly sustained moves. Aim for the belay station slightly to right of the alcove.

Pitch 2 (20, 30m) 5 bolts: Move up and slightly left into the beautiful hand/finger crack. Several good wires and cams can be placed before clipping the bolt about 10m up. The crux is found at the top of the crack where a couple of long dynamic moves are needed to gain a good hold. Trend slightly left into the horizontal break and another good cam placement before clipping the next bolt. Move up the wall on slopping holds before clipping another bolt and some good cams. Move over easier ground clipping two more bolts as you go and a couple of cams.

BARRINGTON QUARRY

Posted by Ross Weiter

I have put up two new routes in Barrington Quarry. They are between "Dirty Deeds" and "Gathering the Bones" and easily spotted by ringbolts. I have also placed lower-offs on top of "Skin Tight".

These three routes together make a decent morning outing to Barrington Quarry. They are in the shade until 11:30am and then stifling hot.

**** Incinerator (23m, 20)**

Enjoyable gym-like climbing on large holds, with some unusual body positions and a long final move to get to the anchors. 8 ringbolts to lower-offs. FA: Ross Weiter, Francis Butler, June 2012.

**** The Burn (20m, 22)**

3m uphill from Incinerator. Getting off the ground is tricky but there many other chances to come unstuck on this sustained and sequence route. It gets easier higher up but the pump might still get you. 7 ringbolts to lower-offs. FA: Ross Weiter, Peter Thomas, Angela Separovic, Nov 2012.

PEAK HEAD

Posted by Angela

***** The Runnel of Love (21, 27m)**

Excellent face climbing on thin edges. Start 4m left of the Lizard of Oz at the base of the large tapered runnel at the left end of the west face. Climb the left edge of runnel past nine bolts (fixed hangers) to a DBB. FA: Tim Ball and Ryan Watson, October 2012.

MOUNT FRANKLAND

Posted by Ross Weiter

**** Free Willy (38m, 18)**

Start 5m R of *Free Burma*; this one is much harder and much better protected. The start looks bad due to the rampant green moss but the climbing is easy and the key holds are clean. After the first 8m the slab is immaculately clean and the crux will test your shoes. 11 GIMBs and lower-offs (2m R of *FB* lower-offs). FA: Ross Weiter, Hamish Carrad, Jordan Iles, October 12.

**** Well Stoned (75m, 19)**

(i) 40m, 15 Same as first pitch of *Stoned Alone* but with different finish: from last GIMB go diagonally up and right to get to DBB. This finish stays drier after rain.

(ii) 35m, 19 Excellent steep face climbing on positive edges, with crux down low but interesting all the way. 9 ring bolts and lower-offs, no trad gear.

FA: Ross Weiter, Hamish Carrad, Jordan Iles, October 12

NEW ROUTES

MINI GUIDE UPDATE

Mount Frankland New Climbs, Ross Weiter

The Mount Frankland New Climbs mini-guide has been updated by Ross Weiter in October 2012. Download the newest edition today from the CAWA website!

NEW MINI GUIDE!!!

Wellington Dam Quarry, Krish Seewraj

New mini-guide for Wellington Dam is available. The 16-page guide describes access, 35 climbs of varying grades, has great photos and topographic maps. Krish is looking for feedback and further information from climbers that have experience in the history of this area. His contact details are on the mini-guide if you can help.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE ***

As soon as the guide was released, part of the flake on "Impossible" fell (as predicted in the route description). The missing flake is clearly seen in the image below. Krish estimates this new climb may be harder than the original Grade 27. Please notify Krish of any FAs of this route.



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Alan Ezy on Lumbale 27, Fort Knox, Glenreagh NSW

CLASSIFIEDS

Free for CAWA members. Place advertisements for new or lost outdoor gear, climbing partners, expedition team members, etc.

E-mail your classified to editor@climberswa.asn.au by the required submission deadline.

PERU 2013

Posted by: Mike Wood

On **May 12th 2013** Mike Wood will be escorting a trip for the Bibbulmun Track Foundation to **Peru**. Although we will be visiting many places in this incredible country, the main emphasis will be to walk the **Inca Trail** to **Machu Picchu**. Over the 22 days of the tour we will visit the Ballestas Islands, often described as a mini Galapagos Islands, the ancient and mysterious Nazca Lines, the Colca Canyon (deepest canyon in the world), Lake Titicaca plus the incredible Incan cities of Lima and Cusco. The cost for this trip is A\$7,489.00 including flights. Early registration is required as we need to get permits for the Inca Trail to the Park authorities early, as places are limited.

Website: www.summittravel.com.au

E-mail: mike@peregrinewa.com.au

EVEREST HIGH PASS 2013

Posted by: Mike Wood

We had such a great response this year to the **Everest High Passes** trek that we're doing it again! We leave on **March 24th 2013** and return 16th April. This is a classic trek that takes in the 3 valleys of the Everest region. It is circular so we do not have to return the way we came, which makes for a much more interesting trek. We trek up to 5545m on 2 small peaks, Kala Patar and Gokyo Ri. We visit the Everest Base Camp itself and cross 2 passes, the Cho La and the Renjo La, spending nearly a week at 5000m or above. There are only a couple of spots left for this trip. The cost for this trek is \$4,095 including all flights, plus allow about \$30 per day to buy meals in the local lodges and tea houses where we will spend the evenings.

Website: www.summittravel.com.au

E-mail: mike@peregrinewa.com.au

EUROPE 2013

Expressions of interest sought for 7 days in October 2013 to the Pyrenees mountains (Spain), the Mountains to the Mediterranean. Adding onto that, then a 6 day cycle trip in the Loire Valley in France. Please e-mail Mike Wood at Summit Travel (contact details above) to register.

ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN CLIMBER

THIS SPACE COULD CONTAIN YOUR ADVERTISEMENT

Commercial Advertising in the Western Climber will be available for 2012. For information on how to advertise, please contact the Western Climber editor for details including payment and submission format.

Commercial Advertising Rates

(for full year, four issues)

Full Page	A\$160
Half Page	A\$80
Quarter Page	A\$40

Benefits to Commercial Advertisers:

- Readership by niche group of outdoor enthusiasts!
- Electronic publication that will be distributed to all CAWA members (and surely on-passed to more!).
- Full colour advertising that grabs attention.
- Low-cost advertising fees.
- Support the local WA climbing community.
- Access to CAWA Classifieds section, where you can publicise upcoming events, sales / specials, etc.

Advertising funds received through Western Climber will be channelled back into CAWA to support ongoing activities such as new routes and social events.

CAWA is a non-profit association established to support the WA climbing community. Its committee consists of a group of volunteers; which includes publication of this Western Climber magazine.

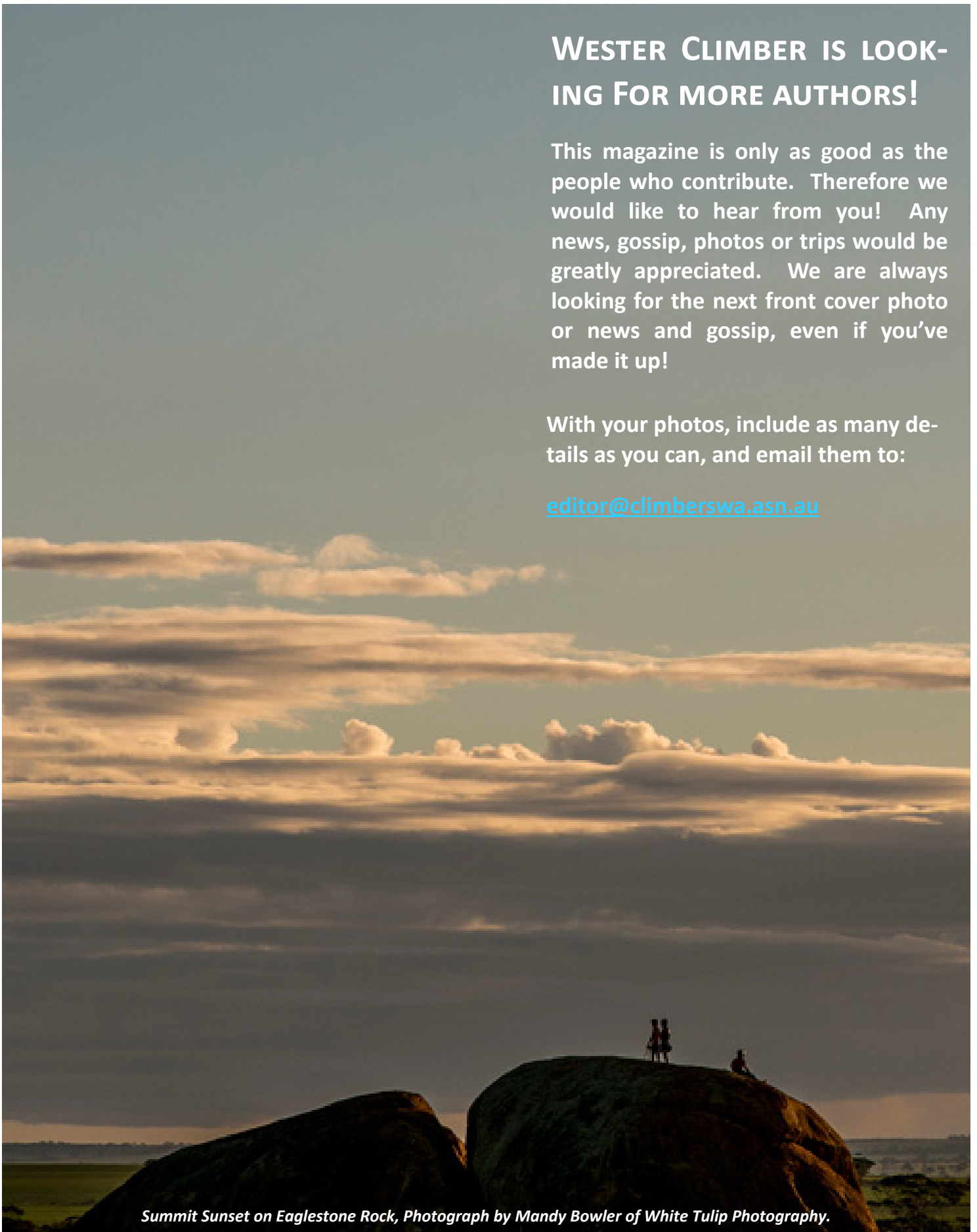
WE NEED YOU!

WESTER CLIMBER IS LOOK- ING FOR MORE AUTHORS!

This magazine is only as good as the people who contribute. Therefore we would like to hear from you! Any news, gossip, photos or trips would be greatly appreciated. We are always looking for the next front cover photo or news and gossip, even if you've made it up!

With your photos, include as many details as you can, and email them to:

editor@climberswa.asn.au



Summit Sunset on Eaglestone Rock, Photograph by Mandy Bowler of White Tulip Photography.