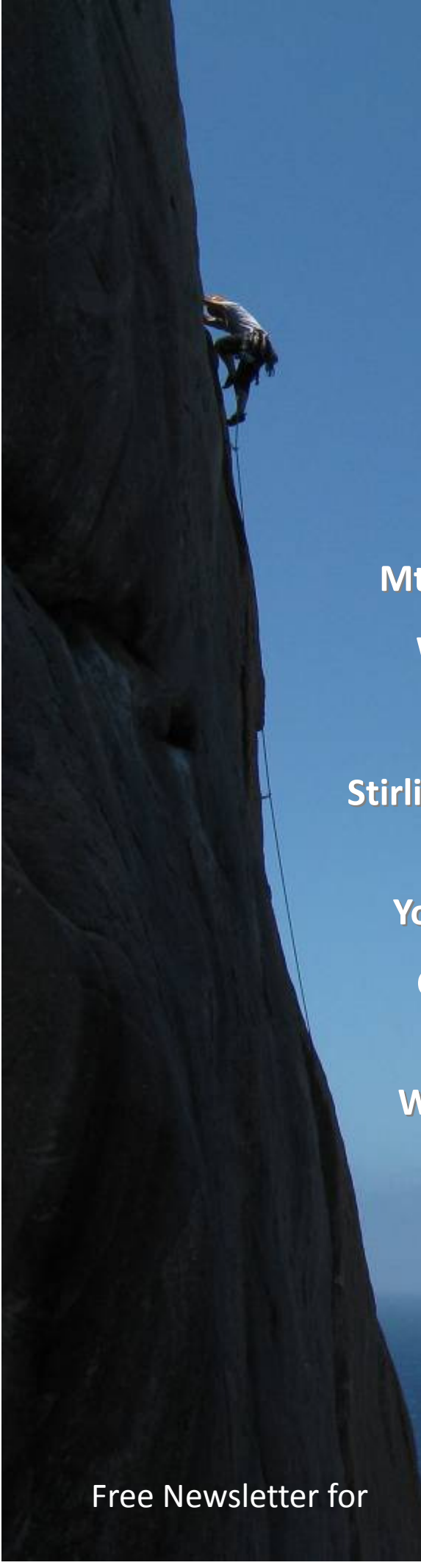




Mt Frankland Trip Report
Willyabrup Trip Report
Albany Trip Report
**Stirling Ridge—Cullin Ridge
Style**
Yosemite Assault Report
**Climbing in the Verdon
Gorge**
**WA's Largest Bouldering
Competition**

western climber

Issue 008 - January to March 2012

Free Newsletter for



CAWA members

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Vacant Position * position available *

Secretary

Vacant Position * position available *

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Cover photo: Mark 'MC Hammer' Wood cruising the onsight of the crack classic Baylac Direct (18) at Peak Head, Albany (Photo: Neil Gledhill).

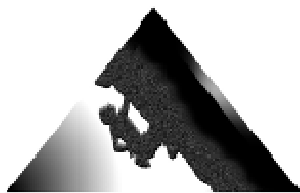
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Web Site <http://www.climberswa.asn.au>



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

C • A • W • A

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.

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

*** GET INVOLVED IN CAWA ***

Various committee positions are still available. Please contact cawa@climberswa.asn.au if you would like to get involved and contribute to the WA climbing community.

western climber

The official publication of the Climbers Association of Western Australia Inc. Issue 008 - January 2012

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Message from your CAWA Committee...



**Hope you find somewhere shady to
climb over summer!**

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

Issue 009	Submissions by	19 March 2012
April 2012		
Issue 010	Submissions by	18 June 2012
July 2012		
Issue 011	Submissions by	17 September 2012
November 2012		
Issue 012	Submissions by	7 January 2013
January 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!



CLIMBERS ASSOCIATION OF
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



From Perth to the
Summit of Mt Everest....
Patrick Hollingworth will
share his story. Come
along and be inspired!!!



AGM

6:30pm Wednesday 15 February 2012
Subiaco Arts Centre, Main Auditorium,
180 Hamersley Rd, Subiaco **FREE PARKING**

The 2012 CAWA AGM will be an exciting event **open to all**.

Come and see what CAWA is about and how you can
become part of the exciting sport of rock climbing in WA !!

We need your help to make 2012 an even bigger and better
year for the WA Climbing Community!

Climbing Photography Competition – Judging & Winners

The Evening's Events – 06:30pm

Annual General Meeting
Climbing Photography Competition

Interval – Bar will be Open
07:40–08:00pm

CAWA 2012 / 2013 – The Look Ahead

Keynote Presentation by
Patrick Hollingworth

Awards of the Photographic Competition

Free for CAWA Members

\$10 for Non-CAWA Members

Memberships available on the night – 6mo \$23-\$28
(Entry fee will then be waived)

Bar & Refreshment Facilities are Available

CAWA CALENDAR

February

7 February	Gym Crash The Hangout, 6:00pm
15 February	CAWA AGM Subiaco Arts Centre, 6:15pm

March

8th March	Gym Crash The Rockface, 6:00pm
14 March	Committee Meeting Submissions welcome
21 March - TBA	Outdoor Movie Night Location and time TBA

April

3 April	Gym Crash The Hangout, 6:00pm
6 - 9 April	Trip - Peak Charles / Cape le Grand Trip Coordinator - Janice Tong
18 April	Committee Meeting Submissions welcome

May

2 May - TBA	Gym Crash City Summit, 6:00pm - TBA
9 May	Social Night - The Oldies Location and time TBA
16 May	Committee Meeting Submissions welcome
27 May	Climbing Comp. - Round 1 Location - TBA

June

2 - 4 June	Trip - Kalbarri Trip Coordinator - Janice Tong
7 June	Gym Crash
13 June	Committee Meeting Submissions welcome

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>

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

NOTICES

Weekend Climbing

CAWA are looking for trip co-ordinators for weekend climbs around Perth. Please e-mail CAWA if you are willing to participate as a trip co-ordinator and encourage others to head outdoors!

Email Updates

CAWA predominantly uses e-mail to communicate with its members. To receive the regular e-mail notices, please provide an e-mail address with your membership. If you are not receiving any notices, please contact us to check whether your e-mail is recorded correctly. If you do not have access to e-mail, please let us know so that we can make alternative arrangements.

ED'S CORNER

Starting to find some momentum, this issue of Western Climber has turned out to be huge! Thanks to everyone for their articles, pictures, stories and support. There has been a lot happening over the last 3 months, and the next three are shaping up to be just as event packed. Keep the stories coming!

Please continue to send in your news, trips, upcoming events and gossip, and keep an eye out for updates on the CAWA website. There is set to be some exciting things to come, and I look forward to people's continuing suggestions for improvement on how to showcase it in the Western Climber.

Thanks also go to all those who have been working hard, going on trips, having fun and sharing it with us.

This is YOUR magazine, so encourage others to share their stories too!

See you on the rocks!

Kate Swain and Allison Low
Editors, Western Climber

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Setting up top ropes for some of the newer members to the sport, Tony at Willyabrup.

Paella night at Willyabrup in Nov which was a huge hit. The CAWA Xmas BBQ was a culinary highlight with Kat & Brenton putting on quite a spread. Everyone was impressed with the service from a gleaming Bain Marie – not quite what you would expect at a climbers BBQ...!

We have some more great events and trips coming up this year and I encourage you to attend the **AGM** which is on **Wed 15 February at 6:30pm**. We are hosting a “new-look” AGM with lots of interesting parts to it. Although we do need to have the formal part, we have a really special and **world-class climber from Western Australia** who will be our Keynote Speaker for the night – **NOT TO BE MISSED**. We also have the display, judging and award of the **CAWA Photographic Competition** and a run-through of an **action packed calendar for 2012**.

We need your support and attendance at the AGM. It's going to be a top event – **please make sure you book your time to attend**. Invites will be going out soon. Of course it's free to CAWA members. But please invite your friends, family and any interested and potential climbers along to see what's CAWA about. They can join up on the night or just pay a small entry fee to join in for the evening.

We also need a few more climbers on the Committee, so that we can deliver on a series of top events, trips and social outings this year. We look to you to help make it a fun and exciting year with trips, events, competitions and social events. Your Committee and myself are on call to answer any questions and see how you can help out. Please call me directly (0416186510) or send me an email if you'd like to get involved.

Welcome back again CAWA members and friends to a huge 2012. **Come along to AGM (pg 4), you will NOT be disappointed....**

Tony Brebner,
CAWA President

Hi all CAWA members and climbers in Western Australia. It's a New Year and CAWA welcomes you to the second Western Climber (Issue 008). We've had great feedback on the resurrected issue of Western Climber and our thanks go to our WC Sub-Committee and editors, Kate Swain and Allison Low. This issue is again testament to the great climbing stories, photos and events contributed by members who make up the framework of CAWA.

Last year seemed to pass in a flash with climbing trips and events that were very well attended by our growing membership. It's great to see so many new and returning members to CAWA. A number of climbers took time out to climb overseas and although the Yosemite Assault Team 2011 did not quite hit the summit of El Cap, there will be, no doubt, another very interesting and amusing talk on the trip coming up this year. Dena, Ross, Kate and others climbed in Europe and we will be getting to that at the AGM.

We had some great trips since the last issue of the WC with Mt Frankland and Manuel's, (not from Barcelona),



President Tony Brebner enjoying Manuel's paella on the Willyabrup trip. Top: Tony at Willy's. Photos by Katrina Forrest

A person wearing a red helmet, a dark tank top, and a climbing harness is ascending a vertical rock face. They are using a rope and their hands and feet to grip the rock. The rock face is light-colored with some darker patches.

*Beginners to
advanced ~
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Photo: Kathryn Ackroyd—Stainless Steel (21)



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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, JARROD AND ALLY IN ARAPS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS 2011/12

Logan Barber, Jarrad May and Ally headed to Arapiles over the Christmas and New Years period to try Punks in the Gym (32). Thwarted by heat, Logan got close, but no send. He did manage Trojan (25) onsight, Masada (29) and Denim (26) though. Not bad for a short trip!

www.loganclimbsrocks.blogspot.com



Logan staring down the crux move on Punks in the Gym (32) at Mount Arapiles. Photo by Alex Glaser

Meanwhile, Jarrod sent some Hollow Mountain classics including a V10 and also got benighted on the Bard, after attempting a 7pm start.

LOGAN AND OWEN OFF TO PATAGONIA

Logan Barber and Owen Davies are off to Patagonia at the end of January for 6 weeks. They aim to sit in a hut and play cards below some of the worlds most beautiful and weather stricken mountains while dreaming of climbing and impressive ascents on Cerro Torre and Mt Fitzroy.

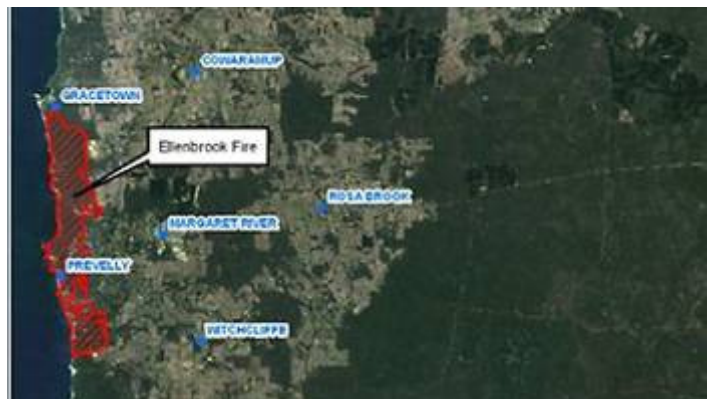


Cerro Torre (middle left) and Fitzroy (far right), Patagonia

ACCESS

FIRE AT MARGARET RIVER

As many people know a fire ripped through west of Margaret River in November of last year. Areas affected were Kilcarnup sub-division, Ellens Brook, Prevelly and the Wallcliff area where 41 houses were destroyed and 3400 hectares were burnt. The fire burnt the bush along the Wallcliff limestone cliff and has left the area bare of much of the once lush vegetation.



CAR BREAK-INS AT CHURCHMAN'S BROOK

There has been a break in of cars at Churchman's Brook car park on two occasions, 9th October and 11th December. All cars were broken into by smashing the windows and stealing small things like I-pods, change, wallets etc left in the cars. The cars were otherwise untouched. The events were reported to the Armadale Police, however, they had no interest in going out to check on the situation.

Be aware that this is not always a safe place to park, and think about leaving all valuables at home or taking them with you. If you do choose to park there, perhaps leave your glove compartment and any other visible compartment open so that the thieves can see that you have nothing left in your car.

CAWA would appreciate being updated on crag access issues, as the committee is unable to cover all the crags in Perth and Western Australia.

Please post any areas of concern to the CAWA forum on the website so that other climbers are aware of any changes to access or climbing conditions in WA.

<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/forum>

You can also e-mail the editor of Western Climber as an alternative to posting on the forum.

editor@climberswa.asn.au

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STIRLING RIDGE—CULLIN RIDGE STYLE

By Chris Swain



The traverse of the Cuillin Ridge on the Isle of Skye (off the coast of Scotland) attracts superlatives like 'one of the finest expeditions in the British Isles' so it is not surprising that it is on the wish lists of many climbers, including mine. Tom Marshall was ahead of me however and had already arranged to be at Glen Brittle in early May 2009, ready to tackle the Ridge. I managed to meet him there 2 days after stepping off a plane at Heathrow. Tom had also done his homework on how best to tackle the Ridge - with lightweight being the key word: no bivvy gear and minimal climbing hardware, i.e. 40m of 9mm rope, 6-8 nuts/hexes, 6 tape slings, walking boots (or five-tennies in my case) and a waist-length rather than a harness. The reason is simple: most of the Ridge involves walking or unroped scrambling (Oz grade 1-3), sometimes very exposed, and with just four climbing pitches with grades between Moderate and Severe (4 - 12) where the average climber might want a rope (there are a few short abseils as well). As a matter of fact, these pitches can all be bypassed by much easier, though

longer (and inferior) deviations, so you can solo the Ridge with just a rope for the abseils, but it's less fun.

Well, we were lucky enough to get almost perfect weather when we first arrived on Skye and managed to complete the Ridge, though not quite all in one day! The main ridge is 12km long, double that with the approaches, and involves over 3000m of up and down, but very fit people regularly do it in one day, though usually they have recce'd it first. It certainly is a great trip, with lots of exposed but easy climbing, good holds and excellent friction (if it's dry), but quite intricate route finding in places.

But back to our own Stirling Ridge: how does that compare? I walked it a week or so before leaving for Skye: it's about the same length but the up-and-down is somewhat less, perhaps 2000m. There is (normally) no roped climbing and only a little scrambling, but nevertheless it provides probably the best training for the Cuillin Ridge

Above: 'Wings' at Pyongoorup, Stirling Range, viewed from Bakers Knob. Photo by Tom Marshall

that you will find in WA. However, the point I want to make here is that, like the easiest version of the Cuillin Ridge, there are significant deviations, the most notable being the long traverse below the south face of Pyongoorup, which can be quite unpleasant due to the vegetation, particularly when wet. Its summit at 1060m is the second highest in the Stirlings and to include it in the Traverse requires one to go back and forth along its 400m whaleback ridge from the col at its east end. Wouldn't it be more fun if the west-to-east Ridge traverse involved climbing straight up the west end of Pyongoorup to its summit?

Tom seemed to think it might be, as he agreed to take a look at it with me in the first week of January this year, by including it in a traverse of the half ridge from First Arrow to Ellen Peak. The idea was to take the same gear selection we'd used on Skye and try the easiest line up the west face, which according to The Guide (CAWA, 1995) is a grade 7 route called Wings, first climbed by Mike Smith and Dave James in 1976. Naturally we hoped this would be little more than a scramble, but decided at the last minute to take climbing shoes, just in case. We found the start quite easily as there didn't appear to be anything else in the vicinity that was climbable. I was certainly glad I didn't have to climb in boots on the first pitch which seemed more than 7 (probably 12), consisting of a series of short overhanging walls.

Fortunately the protection was good. There was only one problem; Tom did have to climb in walking boots as he forgot his shoes! The rest was easier, and quite enjoyable, particularly the chimney on the third pitch which was clean and full of holds, though quite narrow (sack hauling is a good idea). At the top of the 4th pitch the description says "scramble up small cliffs on way to summit" and this looked feasible at first, but closer inspection indicated that a rope would be advisable so we opted to try for a quicker route in the big gully to the left. Traversing out right from the top of the easy lower part of this gully was the key (though it is a bit exposed) and quickly led to the summit which is quite close to the top of the cliffs.

The photo shows the west and south faces of Pyongoorup as seen from Baker's Knob and marks what I think is the line of Wings. The solid lines are the 4 pitches, with easy scrambling in between. Pitch 3 is inside a deep chimney but the line goes up the outside edge. The slot at the extreme right of the photo is the 'Great Chimney', a 3 star grade 17 according to The Guide: it's at the east end of the south face and has a rather scary reputation.

Was it worth carrying the extra gear and spending the extra time to do this route? It was certainly more interesting and enjoyable than traversing the south face, in my opinion. However, it took about 3 hours, perhaps twice as long as the walking option, so you'd have to be quick to fit it into a complete traverse of the Ridge in a day. The extra gear (including rope) weighed about 2 kg for each of us, plus the shoes, though five-tennies would do.

Sometime I'll go back to see if I can find a quicker way up the west end.



Chris styling it old school in Wings chimney. Photo by Tom Marshall



Tom, happy to have survived, on the Pyongoorup summit. Photo by Chris Swain

MT FRANKLAND TRIP REPORT

As remembered by Kylie West (accuracy not guaranteed)...

The trip to the beautiful Mt Frankland National Park was held over the usual Queen's birthday long weekend, although with a slight twist as thanks to CHOGM, the day off was Friday instead of the Monday.

As a virgin trip coordinator, I found it a bit nerve-racking making sure I got all the right information sent out and that people were suitably encouraged and excited by the thought of coming along. Unfortunately, a real crisis emerged that took my mind off this – the god-damn weather.

One minute it looked promising, the next it looked truly horrific and there were plenty of in-between forecasts. I harangued a group of people who I knew would be far more capable of making a rational decision about the weather and the future of the trip than me (I call it delegating) and eventually the final call was made to go ahead with the official CAWA trip.

As it turned out, the weather could not have been more perfect. Which I, of course, took full responsibility for.



At the start of the day, the serious business of identifying routes and potential climbing partners. Photo by Kylie West

SOME GENERAL STATISTICS

The final participant tally was 20, and of these, 19 remembered to bring their shoes and harnesses. Of the 20 people there, 19 chose to cook their own dinner on Saturday night, with one person electing to "share". Out of 20 climbers, 19 wore sensible, respectable climbing attire.

The usual lovely mix of nationalities was present, with the group comprising of Rugby World Cup Champions (that would be me) and Rugby World Cup losers (that would be everyone else). It was notable that no French climbers were present.....

BACK TO THE CLIMBING

A bunch of people had braved the Thursday afternoon mass exodus from Perth and were rewarded for their effort by a good day on Friday. By the time the rest of us turned up on Friday afternoon or thereabouts, we'd missed a perfect slab-climbing day. But no mind, because Saturday and Sunday were also glorious and as far as I could tell, everyone was getting on the rock.

There was the usual line-up at routes like Free Burma (160m, 16***), Dream Weaver (95m, 16***) and Purring Pussies (36m, 15**) to access the ledge to continue on with pitches two and three for many routes. For some, it was good ground for learning multi-pitch climbing as well as leading on slab. For poor Deb, it was a steep learning curve in a) using bolt plates for the first time and b) experiencing the awful run-out traverse on Lambs to the Slaughter (50m, 14*). Handled superbly I should point



From left to right: Brian, Wally, Pauline, Steve, Dena and Ross. Top of Mt Frankland. Photo by Kylie West



Brian practising his "one legged flag" on the last pitch of Dream Weaver (16). A "two legged flag" would have resulted in an impressive handstand. Photo by Ross Weiter

out, with plenty of encouragement from her belayer Martin, who really didn't want to second it! Deb's cool composure was quite a contrast to watching a former CAWA member a few years ago leading the same route, while screaming at the top of her lungs over and over "WHERE'S THE NEXT F*CKING BOLT??!!!"

Richard and I attempted Stoned Alone (80m, 18**). We got the first pitch no problem (a stiff 14) but then found ourselves sitting in a puddle with the rest of the route above us dripping wet. So, after a weird traverse we continued up the rest of Dream Weaver in front of Kelly and Gesa. Kelly had a lovely time leading the first pitch of Dream Weaver, she was really pleased to be offered the lead and jumped at the chance, didn't you Kel?

Dena and Ross went for gold and got many ticks over the weekend, including Hannibal (20), Burmese Tiger (38m, 17*) and Three Sheep Twice a Day (95m, 18**) amongst others. Eric and Craig had a fine outing on Where Eagles Dare (85m, 18*), although Eric's attempt to avoid getting mud on his shoes eventually ended in tears.

Francis had fallen in love with slab climbing and continued let everyone know how much he was enjoying it, particularly when he and Mario were on Purveyors of Matters Large and Small for the Masses (77m, 18*). Discovering that he had to belay off a single bolt at 45m due to an omission in the route description (just some minor detail of needing two small cams to set up belay at 47m), Mario heard Francis shout from the ground "sorry mate, I've lost interest". Being the self-described sociable and easy-going fellow that he is, Mario took this news quite well.

One of the quotes of the weekend was from Richard, having just sweat bullets on the first pitch of Saracen – "I

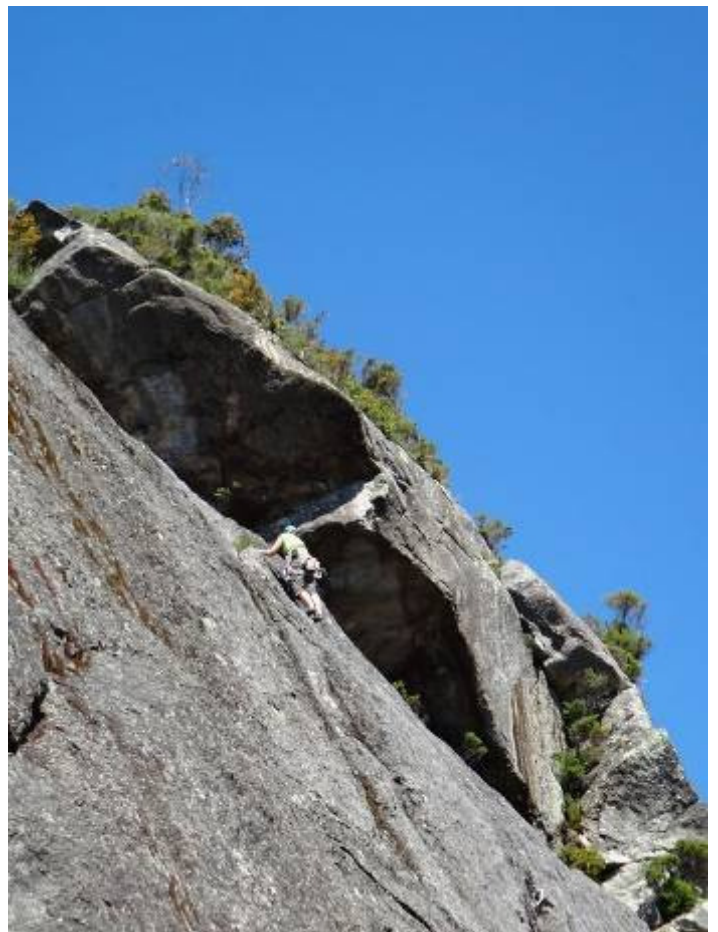
haven't had that much fun since I drove my car into the back of a truck".

Other notable accents were Brian and Gesa doing Butter Fingers (35m, 20***) from the terrace and Steve, Wally and Jo doing Sheep Two (30m, 15). Hamish was spotted cruising up Granitarium (85m, 17*) with Lloyd and I had a great time with Mario and Francis (although I felt a bit like the third wheel ha ha) on Where Eagles Dare.

I also climbed with Gesa, who led Purring Pussies and then we finished the top two pitches of Free Burma. I somehow managed to ram four pieces of gear between the first and second bolts on the second pitch. I felt rather clever and informed Brian that yes, they were all bomber. He asked "how do you know? Did you fall on any of them?" Smart arse.

The evenings were cold but clear and luckily both mossies and march flies were tolerable. The same could not be said for the bull-ants (or whatever those nasty big red ones are called), with Martin and Richard becoming victims of an attack. Martin looked like he was Morris dancing and Richard just opted to tear his trousers off. Different solutions to a painful problem, but equally disturbing!

Considering my initial angst, the weather came up trumps and it was a perfect weekend. The Sunday after-



Kylie leading the second pitch of Free Burma (16). Photo by Brian Tan

noon saw the gang sprawled out on the gravel of the car park enjoying a picnic, the bums. What would the tourists think?!

Good food (scabbed or otherwise), good company and good climbing. What more can you ask for?

A final quote from the irrepressible Richard on the Sunday – “How much would one need to pay for such a perfect day?” The answer is \$107.10, which includes camp fees and vehicle depreciation.



People laughed, but check out the hot chicks Wally pulled in these pants (note that his girlfriend Jo is nowhere to be seen!)

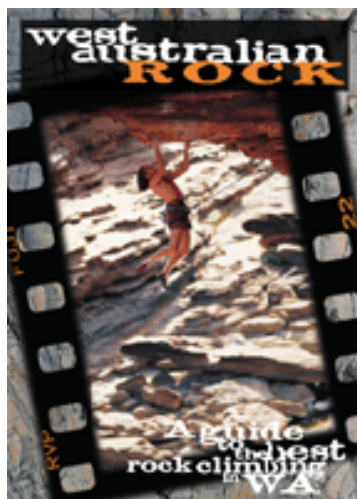


Kelly enthusiastically steaming up the first pitch of 'Dream Weaver' (16). Photo by Kylie West



Brian and Steve on pitch 1 of Dream Weaver (16). Photo by Ross Weiter

GUIDE BOOKS—MOUNT FRANKLAND



West Australian Rock—A guide to the best rock climbing in WA (2002)

by: Shane Richardson

This is a select guide to the best climbing destinations in WA, including Mount Frankland near Walpole. Supplement this with the 'Mount Frankland New Climbs' by Ross Weiter (2011) (free to download from www.climberswa.asn.au/climb/mini-guides).

Cost: A\$49.95

Available at Rockface, The Hangout, Mainpeak and Paddy Pallin.

CAWA Special: Present your CAWA card to get a 10% discount on RRP on all equipment, including guide books when purchased from these stores.

WILLYABRUP TRIP REPORT

By Kate Swain

On the 19th and 20th November 2011, CAWA held a weekend away at the sunny seaside cliff of Willyabrup near Margaret River. There was a HUGE turnout with almost 30 people turning up either on the Friday or Saturday morning. The focus of the first day was a meet and greet followed by climbing many of the classics such as One For The Road (19), Hope (14), Sirius (14), Stainless Steel (21), Inner Space (17) and Totally Awesome (19).

Saturday was action packed with people everywhere, we even scared the abseilers away! Tony was seen around helping many of the newer outdoor climbers with setting up top-ropes and chatting about their climbing. So too was Brian, who had taken 3 friends under his wing and happily showed them the ropes, leading many up the routes on the Inner Space Wall. There were many bolder ascents also occurring with the Ross and Pistol Pete Team, steaming up Totally Awesome (19), and Washed Up Punks (23), before heading up to the top of the Steel Wall to top rope Blowjob (24) for a redpoint attempt the following day.

Excitement ensued with beta and flailing as gusty conditions set in for the afternoon. Meanwhile I had seen a couple of climbers on the half-way ledge of the Steel Wall, doing the classic grade 14 Sirius. I snapped a picture before heading up there with my Dad (Chris). I then got to meet Rob, one of the two I'd taken the picture of. What a great place to meet new people.

Dad and I then did Inner Space (17), before Owen turned up and we went and did Heavy Metal (24), a then a new Ross edition 19 (that I can't remember the name of) near Golden Buttress, which was quite good.

Saturday night was straight out of Masterchef with guest appearance Manuel doing his speciality paella. To quote him "It's a beautiful big dish full of mussels, prawns, squid, pink snapper, saffron, fish stock, tomato sauce... everything made from scratch like in the good old days.

It's an authentic Spanish dish, very spectacular, very delicious". The cost was only \$12 (CAWA subsidised) and it was worth the wait! I for one was wondering how Manuel was going to feed so many hungry mouths and I had this picture in my head of 10 pots and pans on the stove trying to make enough for the 30 people who were milling around.

But with specially built mega party-sized paella pan and matching double-gas, triple-ring burner, the construction of the paella was a mouth-watering sight to see.



Chris Swain following the intimidating traverse on pitch 1 of Sirius (14), Steel Wall. Photo by Kate Swain



Willyabrup Northern Buttress, taken from the main cliff. Photo by Chris Swain

And the spectacle was matched by the taste. It was absolutely delicious! I got first serve!! And happily went back for more. I was surprised that there were no leftovers, as there certainly was a lot in the pan. Thanks very much to Manuel for putting his hand up for making us all such a tasty meal! Please do that again some time!

Anyway, back to the climbing! Sunday saw most people head back to Willyabrup for some more lovely granite



Masterchef Manuel showing us how to create a mouth watering paella. Photo by Tony Brebner

sea cliff action. I headed to the Northern Buttress with my Dad and Owen where we did the classic Banana Split (14), Corpus Delecti (18), Digital Delecti (19) and The Bearded Dolphin (21), and then topoped Grunge Metal (24) which was VERY pumpy but great fun.

The wind really picked up again in the afternoon and was whistling around us at the top by midday. It was a bit exciting and, from what I understand, didn't make it much easier for Peter and Ross who had gone to redpoint Blow Job on the main cliff.

Some dramas ensued after setting up the draws with Peter taking an exciting whipper first up before sending on his second go... Mean time Ross got expelled twice before figuring out a funky sequence using a thumbdercling to get him past the crux to finally secure the send (I got to hear all about it in the car on the way home...) Well done to those two, showing age is no barrier for cranking hard.



The finished product, seconds before it was devoured... Photo by Katrina Forrest



A local at the Gracetown Caravan Park. Photo by Katrina Forrest

Have I missed something? Like to see more or less of what you've read about? Let us know! Send us an email of your trip, experience or plans to: editor@climberswa.asn.au



Above: Kate Swain leading Heavy Metal (24), photo by Anthony Brandis

Left: The Inner Space Wall, with climbers on Left Hand Crack (16) and 20 Questions (12). Katrina Forrest

Bottom: Hamish leading One for the Road (19), photo by Anthony Brandis



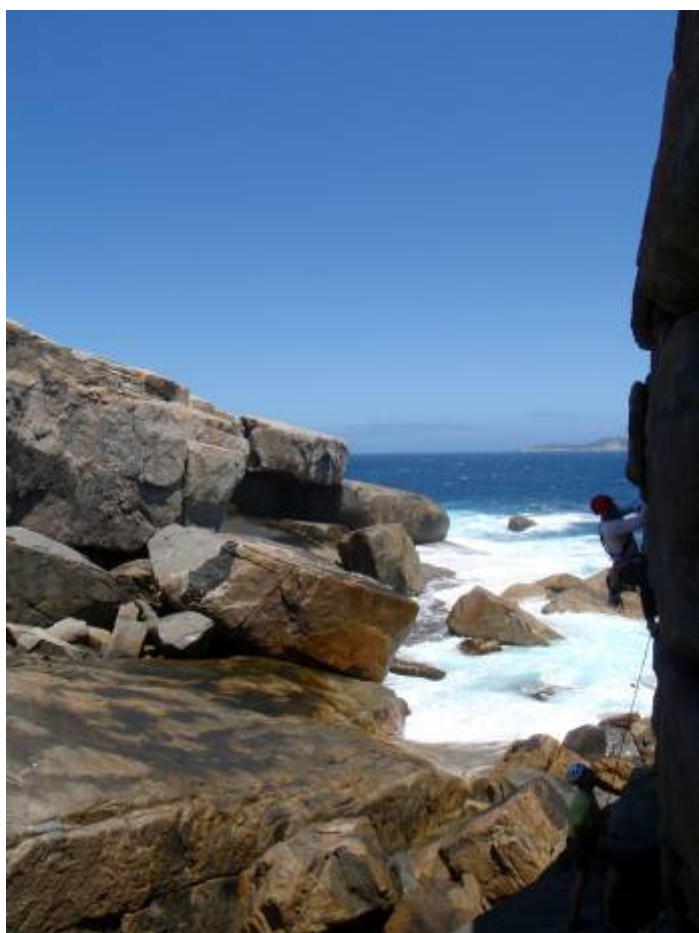
Above: Anthony and Karen on the top of Hope Buttress, photo by Anthony Brandis camera.



ALBANY—NEW YEARS EVE TRIP REPORT

By Remi Vignals and Brian Tan

A long standing tradition, the trip down to WA's south coast sea cliffs near Albany was once again undertaken between (and over) Christmas and New Years. Remi and Brian recount an eventful 10 days of adventure starting in the Porongurup's, before meeting up for the 'official' CAWA trip that started on the 27th December. Many others came together to stay at Cousin Derrick's farm outside Albany, and highlights included climbing at West Cape Howe, Peak Head and the Gap, as well as New Years Eve dinner at Rustlers Steakhouse and Grill (which is much better than the usual Chinese place apparently) It all began with Remi, Delphine, Mario and Hamish on the day before Christmas...



Rob and Peter tackling the "not so easy" Accelerator (16) at the Amphitheater (The Gap). Photo by Remi Vigils

For those who didn't have any family commitment over Xmas, climbing adventures started on the 24th December by one of the most pleasant multi-pitch climb in WA, the 5 pitch fully bolted climb called Raven (15***) on Gibraltar Rock (Porongurup). It was followed by the nice but boldly bolted climb Sucked in Ben (15***) - 1st bolt is about twelve meters up and the climb features plenty of decent runouts all the way up! Even, the perfect weather conditions did not help ease the foot pain after

more than 300 meters of slab climbing... The "breathtaking" dinner at the famous Maleeya's Thai Café nearby was a great Christmas present!

Christmas Day, and a couple of hours drive to Albany: willing to make the most of the calm sea, Mario and Remi decided to go down the Eclipse Wall Right hand side at the Gap where they attempted A Jam a Day (16), Little Ripper (20), Chin Up (16) and Danialson (14). All the routes felt sandbagged, particularly Danialson (14) which appeared harder than all the others tried on the day. Hamish (experienced Kiwi crack climber) repeated the climbs later in the week and found that they were not so difficult after all. He must have thought "Climbers don't know the art of jamming in WA!"

Boxing Day and the weather forecast looked like it was going to be perfect again, so a day at Peak Head seemed opportune. The French/Belgium team took the chal-



Mario leading and Dena belaying at the Gap, Albany. Photo by Janice Tong

lenge set by Ross last year by lowering down to the bottom of his recently added 4 pitch climb Transformer (23-22-19-13***) on the South face of Peak Head. It turned out to be a beautiful day on this very varied climb – and is recommended as a ‘must’ at the grade!

Meanwhile, another Australian/German party arrived in Albany and headed straight to the Amphitheatre at the Gap.

WCH on the 27th December saw Remi, Mario and Delphine went off to Tombstone Rehearsal for some crack climbing practice. Definitely looked like a tough 16 for those not proficient with crack climbing. Meanwhile Brian and Gesa got lost on Carousel and ended up somewhere between that and Chocolate. They later re-did Carousel proper whilst the French-Belgium team did Curley and Moe. I think Remi is fast running out of three and two star climbs at WCH.

Wednesday 28th December saw people heading to the Gap, where many people jumped on Accelerator (16) and as the name suggests, after it took a while to put the 3rd piece of gear in the horizontal break, people just cruised to the top! The highlight was when Remi took a nice whipper (decking out softly) after one of his pieces of gear popped on the traverse of Laughing Matter (19***). Mario and Eric enjoyed the full stretch and un-

usual position seconding the climb, which is another must-do route for the grade!

Thursday 29th December: While most CAWA members went to Peak Head on this 37 degree day, others enjoyed a rest day by having a gourmet lunch at the recently opened Lavender Cottage in Albany, where they read on the beach and enjoyed some artisan ice-cream! The improvised team of the day, Rob and Richard, made their way up On the Lee Side (17) at least for the first 2 pitches before they somehow ended up at the top of Albacross!!! Always a good idea to take the topo with you!



Steve, Phil and Derrick pushing the tractor out of the shed to make room for people to sit out of the rain. Janice Tong



Climber on Listen to the Wind Blow (22) at the Gap, Albany. Photo by Phil Calais

Hamish and Eric had a ball on the must do crack classic Baylac Direct (18***) while Phil went up Albatross and Baylac Direct for his 258th time!

Friday 30th didn't offer a great day of climbing for most as the rain and wind lessen our ability to stick to the rock. Delphine, Remi, Mario, Francis, Hamish and Eric made their way to West Cape Howe where the 4WD track was more challenging than the previous years. However, climbing was still achieved, as Remi led Hi Ho Silver (20***) and Prow (15) while Mario and Francis did Wire Flake (16***). Delphine was not impressed when she swayed some loose rocks bigger than her size half way up Prow (done in one pitch) and the rain had dampened the now very slippery rock. The last 10 meters of Prow are an overhanging (usually) fun section on jugs, but how solid are the jugs is a question that you would rather not be asking yourself! Hamish and Eric unfortunately didn't get a chance to climb due to the rain. It seems a hot chocolate was the consensus over wineries for the afternoon for them!

New Years Eve saw the weather playing up again and it looked quite overcast in the morning. Richard, Tracy and Phil decided to head to Gibraltar Rock while Del-

phine, Dena, Janice, Mario, Francis, Hamish, Conrad, Eric and Remi decided to go to the Gap. Mario was delighted to tick I am the Walrus (18**), he even smiled a little bit! Delphine did another series of leads at the beginner wall, and also thoroughly enjoyed herself. It turned out to be a good day.

The end of the year was celebrated with a pleasant celebratory dinner at Rustlers Steakhouse and Grill, where the service was good and friendly and the food worth paying for.

New Years Day saw the weather looking grim, and most people decided not to stick around, but to head home early. Many still keen to climb made a detour to Castle Rock in the Porongurups on their way back to Perth, hoping for some dry rock and a last day of climbing. Unfortunately it was again too wet to even consider taking the backpacks out of the car, and so they headed on home after a rather interesting trip.

Meanwhile, Phil had till the 7th Jan off and decided to stick around. He reports that it was not too bad after the 2nd, but that there was no-one left to climb with, so he headed out in true style to look for new crags...



New Years Eve dinner at Rustlers Steakhouse and Grill.

Left to right: Delphine, Mario, Dena, Ross, Conrad, Matilda, Lachlan, Jacob (unseen), Steve, Phil, Hamish and Remi.

KANGAROO ROCK - ESPERANCE

By Kate Swain



Lucky Bay, Cape le Grand National Park, Esperance. Photo by Kate Swain

An alternative set of seacliffs to Albany is Kangaroo Rock and now Mississippi Boulders in Cape le Grand National Park, east of Esperance. Published in Rock magazine in 2009, Rob Wall made the initial discovery and development. The cliffs were later visited by Ed Nepia, Shane Richardson and Ross Weiter in 2010 and 2011, and now have approximately 29 routes ranging from 13 to 23 in the Cape le Grand area.

Easy to access, easy to find and with a face always in the shade, it made a nice outing over the Christmas - New Years Eve break, though on the days we visited, it was quite windy!

Highlights included Nameless (23) and L'Esperance (18) on Kangaroo Rock, and Silhouette (18) at the nearby Silhouette Area, as well as a hike to the top of Frenchman's Peak (1.5 hrs round trip).

For those thinking of heading down, there are National Park camping facilities at Lucky Bay (\$11 park entry), with a campers kitchen, flushing toilets, shower and BBQs available for a cost of \$9 per night. It is very busy (full) over the Christmas period, but if you arrive early you may be lucky enough to grab a spot as someone leaves. The downside is that it is an 800km (8.5 hrs) drive one way. The plan was to do what Ross and Dena did and drive back via Albany for a few days, but weather not permitting, we drove home for a weekend and New Year in Perth.

Ross and Dena had a successful trip, completing 4 new routes. Check out the new mini-guide at: <http://www.climberswa.asn.au/climb/mini-guides/>

Also see the CAWA website for new routes :



Left: Kangaroo Rock on the left, with Silhouette Area far right, by Kate Swain. Top right: The author sampling the climbing on The Roaring Forties (19), Kangaroo Rock, by Neil Gledhill. Bottom right: Some locals at Lucky Bay, by Kate Swain

YOSEMITE ASSAULT TEAM REPORT

By Kenny Chan

It sounds like the beginning of a bad joke...

There once was a Frenchman, an Aussie and 2 Asians who wanted to climb some big walls. Throw in the mix, a Scotsman and an Olympic rower who decided he'd go from Top-Rope to Big Wall in 3 months and you've got all the ingredients for either a great climbing epic or one immense Clusterf\$#k... and so the Yosemite Assault 2011 was born!



The Yosemite Assault Team 2011 with all members featured. Clockwise from L to R: Kenny, Steve, Remi, Scotty, Dave and Brian. Photo by Brian Tan

Yosemite is possibly the most famous destination for climbing and an internet search will give you a much more reliable source about the history and significance of the place than any half-baked story I could tell. So, assuming that you're all proficient in the ways of the information superhighway, this trip report will spare you the geography/history lesson and get straight into our experience (or lack of it) on some of the more memorable climbs we tackled.

Date: Monday, 26th September 2011
"The Nutcracker", Manure Pile Buttress, 5 pitches, Grade 5.8. Climbers: Kenny, Brian

A benchmark in climbing history as the first Yosemite multi-pitch climb to have its first ascent done by the famous Royal Robbins (look it up if you don't know who he is) using only removable nuts as protection. This climb in turn played a huge role in influencing the demise of pitons and fixed gear. But enough guff, here's what happened when we jumped on!

Steve and Dave hadn't arrived yet. For Brian and I, it was

our first day in the valley. Scotty and Remi, who had already been climbing for 2 weeks prior, tried to give us some 'helpful' beta by describing to us the first pitch... with its slippery white streaks of polished granite that you don't want to step on and the unprotect-able 3 metre long, off width crack that included a nice solid tree growing at the base to make sure you at least suffer a fractured back in the case of a fall... Great! Thanks for the detail guys.... Our initial impression was, 'Why aren't we clipping bolts in Thailand right now???'

Brian and I had a game of rock scissors paper to decide who was going to do the first pitch... Brian drew the



Rock, Scissors, Paper... the only truly democratic way to make decisions.

short straw...

The direct conversion for USA Grade 5.8 should be about Aussie 16. When you first start climbing at Yosemite, you realise this is a somewhat optimistic appraisal. In reality, Yosemite 5.8 feels more like 19 or 20!!

The first pitch turned out not to be as treacherous as suggested after speaking to our comrades. Sure it had all the things described above, but we adjusted to the different style of climbing quite well and the whole 5 pitch ascent was a fantastic 4 hour experience that I would recommend to anybody heading over to Yosemite. Brian and I were still suffering a bit of jetlag though and it took a while for the toes to get used to being in climbing shoes for such extended periods of time, but these discomforts were nothing that a nice warm salami and butter sandwich at the top couldn't soothe!

Interesting things for this climb:



Resting at the top of 'Nutcracker', Brian takes a shot of Scotty making some gesture with his finger while Kenny enjoys his luke-warm salami sandwich.

Our guidebook advised that the crux of the climb is on Pitch 5, described as the non-protectable 5.8 mantle... falls on this section have resulted in broken ankles. For WA climbers, mantles aren't really a problem as they are found everywhere in the quarries. The real crux was on Pitch 4, a strange roof crack which required deft jamming of the hands in a thin splitter while wishing that you hadn't gone that ½ size smaller on the shoes as you stuff as many toes as possible into a 1-2 inch crack!!! I guess fate played its hand well and I got this pitch on lead... serves me right after shafting Brian with that rock, scissors, paper game!!!

Date: Thursday, 29th September 2011

"Central Pillar of Frenzy", Middle Cathedral Rock, 5 pitches, Grade 5.9

Climbers:

Team 1: Kenny, Steve

Team 2: Brian, Dave

What a fantastic name for a climb! Probably why it was so popular and crowded! The rest of the team had arrived and we were told to get there early!

So... we woke up at 5.30am, arrived at the base of the climb by 7am, and then... waited in line for an hour to jump on!

Frenzy was also our first Grade 5.9 climbing and the difference between 5.8 was quite stark. We heard a rumour that back in the old days, there was no such thing as Grade 5.10, so everything harder than 5.8 was just called

a generic 5.9. So for some older climbs, 5.9 was a 'lucky dip' grade that euphemistically meant 'challenging'.

Challenging grades often require special gear!! One of the more unusual items we procured for the trip was the 'BigBro', an expandable, tubular piece of protection that resembles a toilet roll. The tube is usually placed in off-width cracks that are too wide for a normal cam to handle. Scotty made it his mission to place at least one BigBro in every climb we attempted. He also made me take a couple of BigBros on Frenzy, saying they would be handy for some of the chimney sections...



Scotty's weapon of choice... the 'BigBro'!.. seen here backing up a bomber #4 BD cam placement.



Brian blasting up one of the pitches on 'Frenzy'. Can anything stop this man? Photo by Kenny Chan

Fast forward to pitch 5 of Frenzy. After thrutching a long way up a wide chimney, I eagerly looked for any opportunity to place a BigBro. The chimney only narrowed enough for a BigBro placement towards the top before it transformed into a fist sized splitter for the remainder of the climb. It was at this point or never... I unslung the BigBros. After spending at least 5 minutes trying to place the damn #2 BigBro, my metatarsal fortitude was giving out... so in went a No. 4 BD cam instead, total placement

time, 3 seconds... Seeing that I didn't need any more big gear after this part of the climb, after clipping the rope, I slung the BigBros and any remaining big stuff on the No. 4 for Steve to collect on second... little did I realise that this was the 5.9 crux of the entire climb. All I could hear 15 minutes later was a whole lot of harsh language in a Scottish accent, along with 'Thanks for leaving the f\$#king pro shop at the crux, Kenny'. Steve still talks about what a shitty friend I am to this day!!!

Interesting things for this climb:

Dave scaring the crap out of us by doing an inverted, spread eagle pendulum swing while simul-rappelling on the descent... and of course, the salami sandwich for lunch!



'Simul-rapping' back down saves time if you can avoid upside down pendulum swings and using the wrong descent anchors.

Saturday, 1st October 2011

"East Buttress", Middle Cathedral Rock, 11 pitches, Grade 5.9 A0

Climbers:

Team 1 – Remi, Brian, Dave

Team 2 – Scotty, Kenny, Steve

By this stage of the assault, enough of us were climbing confidently on 5.9 that it was time to tackle a medium sized wall as a test bed for our attempt at the 'Regular Northwest Face' of Half Dome. The main goal was to ensure we could at least complete 11 pitches in a day in two teams of 3. It was our full dress rehearsal before jumping on a real 'Big Wall'.

What took place on this route could only be described as 'a comedy of errors'. The day began with another alpine wake up, this time at 4.30am, hoping it would help get us pole position at the base of the climb... after getting lost for 45 minutes in the 'Gully Descent from Hell' (more on this later), we arrived at the base around 8am, where...

again we had to wait in line... being 3rd climber in the second team, my feet didn't get off the ground until 10am... we knew it was going to be a long day!!



those 4.30am starts. I'd rather be in my 'Happy' place. Scott saving his energy for the long day ahead.

Both teams were 'benighted' and topped out just as the sun went down at about 7pm. After scrambling around in the dark on narrow, exposed paths, we finally found the descent path; at about 9pm... this is where the real 'fun' began. The descent was a long, boulder strewn gully that is popularly described by climbers as 'Hellish'. Scrambling over loose rocks, house sized boulders and negotiating 3x60m simul-rappels down 45 degree narrowing ravines, we acknowledged that the 'Hellish' description wasn't prone to exaggeration. In fact, when I describe the gully to others, it goes along the lines of, 'Sometimes I have this nightmare where I'm in a really dark place, and no matter what I do or how fast I move, I just can't seem to get out of there... and then I realise I'm having a



In the descent gully, it felt like we were all suffering from 'Chicken Weakness'... you know that lethargic feeling you get after having eaten a bucket of KFC by yourself...

flashback to the descent gully on Middle Cathedral Rock!!!

We finally got back to the car at around 1am, arriving back at the campsite soon after. Remi decided it wasn't proper to go to sleep without eating a decent meal, so he cooked up a great Spaghetti Bolognese with Cacciato Sausage (Fried Salami). What a nice way to end a hard day. I think most of us were asleep before our heads hit the pillow... we had completed our medium sized wall successfully and were now looking forward to the 4 mile trek to Half Dome the next day... Yeah RIGHT!!!



Our bodies were eating, our minds were already fast asleep by this stage.

Interesting things for this climb:

While sitting comfortably at the belay station eating salami sandwiches, Steve and Scotty sent the shortest guy in the team (me) to do the only true 'aid' section of the climb... a bolt ladder at pitch 5, where the first bolt was about 15cm out of reach (might as well have been 2 metres)... this led to some pretty 'spicy' unprotected 5.10c face climbing where a fall would have resulted in a 3+ metre pendulum straight off the belayer... and probably a couple of profanities, broken bones, general sadness... you get the picture!!!

Friends from Los Angeles, Rein and Pam, were supposed to meet up with us for dinner at a fancy restaurant. Rein managed to spot us on the wall at around 3pm thanks to Scotty's 'Mango' coloured nano-puff jacket. When he still didn't hear from us at around 9pm, he jumped in his car and went speeding out to the climbing site, managed to get pulled over by a state trooper who cited him for 4 violations of the California traffic code... Rein frantically explained, 'Mate, I got 6 friends lost somewhere on Cathedral Rock. They were supposed to be down hours ago. I'm going to find them.' Whether it was the heroic intent in his voice or the cop thinking this one was

straight into the 'too hard basket', Rein got off on all counts... we still missed our fancy dinner though!!



Left: It was pretty tense before Kenny made the first clip on Pitch 5... with the amount of rope out and no protection yet, a fall was going to end up as a NASTY pendulum directly on the belay anchors ... to make things worse, the flake at the base was loose and moving!

Right: The smile of relief as the first bolts are clipped and the climber is on his way safely!

Sunday, 2nd October 2011

North West Regular Face of Half Dome, 23 pitches, Grade 5.8 C2

Climbers:

Team 1 – Remi, Brian, Dave

Team 2 – Scotty, Kenny, Steve

It was Sunday.

The plan was:

Sunday: Trek to the base of Half Dome. Fix the first 3 pitches, camp at the base for the night.

Monday: With an early start and 3 pitches fixed, we'd blast up to Pitch 17 and bivvy on some ledges for the night.

Tuesday: Complete the last 6 pitches, take lots of pretty photos at the summit of Half Dome and then walk back to the Valley by Tuesday evening.

Wednesday: Rest day as a massive storm was forecast to hit the valley!

We had it all worked out!! Because we didn't want to haul bags through the infamous chimneys and flakes on Half Dome, we devised a plan where Scotty and I would trek in via the 2.5 mile "Death Slabs" approach with enough ropes and gear to fix the first 3 pitches. The "Slabs" are the quicker but more dubious way in... the rest of the team would carry the remaining gear in backpacks via the slower 4 mile 'tourist' approach. We were going to do the whole climb using only backpacks, no haul bags and thereby hopefully reducing the chance of a clusterf\$#k... that was the Half Dome plan in a nutshell.

What really happened... because of our 20 hour epic on Middle Cathedral the day before, Sunday involved waking up at about 11am, going to Curry Village (the cool place to be at Yosemite), internet and emails, sorting out some gear, sightseeing, then going to fancy dinner we missed the night before with Rein, Pam, Murray and Katy.



The single most distinctive feature of Yosemite Valley is the imposing 'Half Dome'.

Murray and Katy were 2 friends from WA passing through Yosemite on their way to see polar bears in Alaska. At dinner, Katy advised us that a ranger told her the coming Wednesday's storm would bring snow... it all sounded a bit like Chinese whispers and we all had a laugh ... the whole time we had been in the valley, day-time temperatures never got below 25° Celsius... there was no way it was going to snow!! We even contemplated walking in to Half Dome on the Monday and taking our chances with the storm... Luckily we didn't!!!

Tuesday night came along ... with rain, winds, cold... and SNOW... lots and lots of SNOW!!!

We were glad we didn't chance walking in to Half Dome on the Monday... We would have been around pitch 17 when the storm came in... and in all honesty, one of us probably would have died!!

It looked bad. Thirty centimetres of snow on top of Half Dome, most of the roads connecting Yosemite Valley to the rest of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range were closed... Katy and Murray got trapped in the valley... luckily they had a fully equipped RV and were more comfort-

able in the cold than the rest of us, with our shack and canvas sheet for a door... although nobody wanted to say it, in the back of our minds, given the amount of time we had left, all of us had a gut feeling that we missed our window to go up Half Dome ... this was confirmed when Brian called Tommy Caldwell, who came down from his project on El Capitan because of the storm. He joined us for lunch at a cafeteria and told us because of where Half Dome is in the valley, the snow probably wouldn't melt for 4 or 5 days and we'd probably be better off doing something on El Capitan, which would clear up pretty quickly... Dave and Steve were already leaving at the end of the week... Half dome would have to wait until next time... a heartbreaking day!!



Wednesday morning and Half Dome is covered with a thick blanket of snow.

Dave, Steve and Scotty decided to drown their sorrows by taking a hike in the snow up to Glacier Point to get some scenic photographs (of clouds). Remi had the flu, so after we helped him scour some bins for a missing tarp, he went to bed for the rest of the day, Brian jumped on his laptop and I just stared all afternoon at the snow covered top of Half Dome, eating my salami sandwich and pondering the question 'Why was life so SHIT!?'

The great irony (not irony as in the Alanis Morissette version of it... her song shouldn't even have been named "Irony", but rather, "Shit Happens") about Half Dome is that we climbed East Buttress of Middle Cathedral as a full rehearsal of our systems in preparation for Half dome, but because of the epic we had on the descent, we missed our opportunity for Half Dome itself....



It's hard enough keeping the bears out of the bins, let alone the bored climbers on a forced rest day...

Interesting things for this climb:

Tommy Caldwell and his crew also came down from their project on El Capitan because of the storm. He stopped by to have lunch with us and laid down the brutal reality that our dream of climbing Half Dome on this trip was probably over. I noticed he didn't order anything from the cafeteria we were at... unlike us, he had local knowledge. It didn't seem to matter what we all ordered, it might as well have been 'Fried Fat with Fat on the Side.' We were probably better off with salami sandwiches.

At this point, Dave was ready to bug out of the valley and Steve realised that he was out of time to do any of the big walls with us, so once the snow cleared enough, he and Scotty set out to do an 11 pitch, 2 day push on the Southwest face of Washington Column, while the rest of us did some cragging and thought out our limited remaining options.



Tommy: "You guys actually ate the food here?"



Dave: "Who's Tommy Caldwell?"



Kenny: "What's with all the salami?"



Scotty: "Wonder if that cute Asian bird is going to call?"



Steve: "And they say Scotland is cold?"



Brian: "When can we go clip some bolts in Thailand?"



Remi: "You looking at me, Punk?"

Sunday, 9th October 2011

"The Nose" of El Capitan, 32 pitches, Grade 5.9 C2

Team 1: Remi, Brian

Team 2: Kenny, Scotty

This was it... the BIG ONE... the last climb on our list and also the most famous Big Wall at Yosemite.... one thousand metres tall, 32 pitches... and a 60% failure rate!!!



El Capitan in all its glory.

With the time we had left before heading back to Perth, we had one chance at this. To try stack the odds of topping out in our favour, Remi and Brian did a couple of night time stealth missions to fix the first few pitches so we could haul our gear up easier... and gear we had... water, portaledge, sleeping bags, poo-tubes and of course, salami sandwiches!!

Hauling our gear up 'The Nose' was the single most unpleasant experience of the entire trip. The bags were so heavy straight off the ground that Scotty could just get them moving by leg hauling with a friction pulley, but my 54kg bulk had absolutely no chance. After 2 pitches, Scotty was fading too. In the end, we used a system of 'space hauling'. After getting to the top of a pitch, I'd attach myself to one end of our haul line, which ran through the friction pulley and back down to our bags. While tethered to 15 metres of our climbing line (for safety), I'd run down the wall, my bodyweight acting as a counterweight for the haul bag, so when I ran down, the haul bag would move up. When I reached the end of the tether, I would jumar back up the haul line on ascenders to start the process again until the bag reached the next belay point... tiring... no wait, exhausting work!!!

At about 7pm on the first day, we'd reached a height of about 300 metres and decided we'd put out the portaledges and call it a night.

Sleeping on the portaledges was an experience in itself. Between putting up with Scotty's farts and waking up multiple times through the night to find that the soft bed I was sleeping in was just a torturous dream, it seemed getting a good night's rest was almost as hard as hauling!!

Day 2 started off with breakfast on the portaledge, then packing up all the gear, followed by the mandatory morning poo...months ago, we gave Scotty plenty of hassle for his comment about how we should practice pooing in front of each other... as I balanced on one side of the portaledge, poo bag in hand and trying not to let everything go arse over heel as Brian and Remi were still sleeping on their portaledge 50 metres directly below, I thought, 'That wouldn't have been a bad idea, Scotty!!'

By mid-morning, we were entering the 3 or so pitches known as the 'Stove Legs' ... named so because before the advent of modern climbing protection, actual stove legs were used to protect the wide cracks. We'd picked a popular time to climb as it seemed every other man and his dog were also entering the stove legs. While hauling our gear to pitch 8, we were joined by a team of climbers from the Czech Republic and another from Germany. With 4 climbing teams converging on the same pitch, conditions were ripe for a clusterf#\$k to occur!!

Apart from the clusters, we noticed that the valley was looking a bit dark this day. We didn't really give it much thought because according to the latest weather report before we left the ground, there was only a 20% chance of rain for the Monday.



A photo published in the 'El Cap' Report for 10/10/2011 showing the congestion in the stove legs... Brian is in the blue jacket, Scotty is leading in the beige pants, and Kenny is in the dark jacket next to Brian. Remi (not shown) was on the pitch below.

As we negotiated our way up the stove legs with the other teams, we started noticing a few sprinkles of water... as the day progressed, the rain got heavier. We pushed ahead thinking 'how bad could 20% chance of rain get??'

When we noticed we couldn't see the top of El Capitan anymore (in fact, we couldn't see much of anything anymore!!) and whole ecosystems of waterfalls, lakes and rivers started to evolve on the walls and ledges, the other teams started to bail off. We kept going... for a little while longer!



Brian with his head in the clouds about climbing on El Capitan!

Another half hour after the first teams started bailing, clouds had settled in all around us and El Capitan itself was like a curtain of water. The rain was deceptive at first and by the time we realised how bad it was going to get, it was too late to set camp as all our gear was already saturated. It wouldn't have mattered if we got the portaledge out now, everything was already drenched and even if the weather cleared up, we wouldn't be able to climb the next day in any case because everything was wet. We had to join the other 3 parties and bail off just past pitch 8!!

We estimated that our descent would take us around 4-5 hours, due to the other teams and also managing all our haul bags and gear. All those things we read months before but never thought we'd have to use, such as bailing off a cliff with haul bags, we now had to put into action.

That 20% chance of forecasted rain had turned into

100% chance of misery... and because this storm was not forecasted, we were not sure how long it was going to last or really how bad it was going to get.

Although we knew we were going to be ok through the bail off, there were some concerning moments during the descent. When you're the last person at an anchor waiting for the next anchor to clear before descending, it's a pretty lonely time and the only thing you can feel is the cold wind hitting your face and the rain on your head. Also, every time we dropped our wet ropes at an abseil anchor, we'd see the rope unfurl, then disappear into the clouds before hearing an almighty 'clap' as the ends would crack like whips due to the wet weight. We knew there were climbers below but couldn't see them because visibility was down to less than 50 metres, so we just hoped they heard the 'Rope' calls and kept their faces down while the rope zoomed past. We learnt a lot from our bailout experience, probably even more than if we had topped out as planned.



With the top of El Capitan now totally obscured by thick clouds and the wall resembling a curtain of water, Scotty skillfully lowers himself along with a haul bag, poo bag and portaledge.

We touched down at around 8.00pm, soaking wet, cold but happy we weren't still up on the wall!

As we were gathering all our gear, emptying water and getting ready to hike out from the base of El Capitan, each of us swore that we would never want to do this again, that we'd happily spend the rest of our days as a latte sport climber...



Did you make it to the top?... "Frayed Knot!!" hahaha... Brian showing what happens to wet ropes that are constantly cracked like whips as they are dropped from the rapel anchors.

It's funny how the body never remembers discomfort or pain. On the drive back to LA two days later, the only feeling we had was not of aching muscles or fatigue, but that we had left something unfinished!!!

We knew that the Yosemite Assault 2013 had officially begun...

TO BE CONTINUED

Interesting things for this climb:

While on the portaledge, we often heard shouts and calls in the middle of the night... we didn't realise until we watched the Reel Rock Tour 2011 a month later

back in Perth that those calls were being made by Tommy Caldwell and Kevin Jorgeson whenever they completed a hard section a few climbs over from us on El Capitan. Tommy did tell us earlier in the week that he preferred climbing from around 7pm to 1am as the wall was heaps cooler and conditions were more comfortable for good climbing.

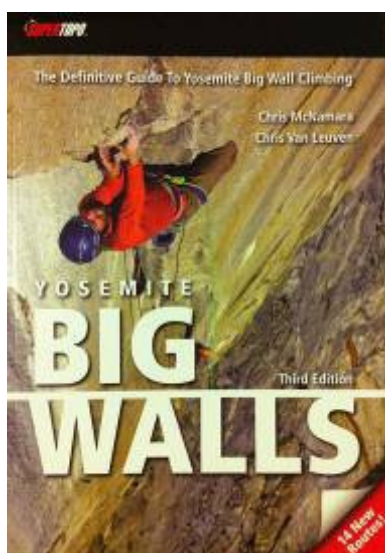
One thing you notice when it starts to rain is that El Capitan stinks like piss... probably weeks of piss gets washed down from the towers when a decent sized storm passes through!

Learn how to lower out when seconding a traverse or pendulum!!!!... Another climbing team nearly took Brian out because their second was cutting loose to second a traverse rather than lowering themselves out properly. It's amazing how many Rang-Dangs you see attempting something like this without proper preparation...



The great El Cap dry out. We were tourist attraction No. 1 in the meadows as we hung out everything to dry before packing up and heading back to L.A.

GUIDEBOOK - YOSEMITE VALLEY



Yosemite Big Walls - Third Edition (2011)

by: Chris McNamara and Chris Van Leuven

This comprehensive guide now has 64 routes, including 14 new routes with first ascent history, updated gear information for each pitch and linking beta, as well as updated approach information and recommended strategy and retreat for each route.

Cost: US\$29.95 (not including postage)

Available at: www.supertopo.com/bigwalls/yosemite/bigwalls.html

They also have an eBook option to instantly download the book.

Additional information and bigwall forum also available from the website.

CLIMBING IN THE VERDON GORGE

By Kate Swain



Neil Gledhill on Karin's Line (6a) at the Le Belvédère de la Carelle. Photo by Kate Swain

The weather was sunny and hot in mid September in southern France. The Verdon Gorge was our first destination and it was a lovely temperature if we'd wanted to soak up the sun on a Mediterranean beach on the French coast, however, for climbing it was a bit warm!

The main cliffs (Gorge Droit or right), near the small town of La Palud, faced south and south-east and there was not much respite from the sun in the mornings. Fortunately it was very spectacular, with lots to explore and many baked goods to sample, so the four of us found it just manageable.

I'd met up with Mark from Melbourne, Rich from Canada and my boyfriend Neil (who'd just spent 2 weeks climbing in the Alps with Ross.) (*Ed note: see next Western Climber for their article*). Neil and I had been there for 3 days in September 2009 on our way to Greece and had been very impressed with the place. Rumours of

widely spaced bolts, scary runouts and desperate climbing were found to be true, but these routes were interspersed with some old-school very long multi-pitch climbs which weren't too bad if you had some gear to supplement the bolts!

On our previous trip, we'd done La Demande (6a) (*The Question*) a 300m adventure from the bottom of the gorge to the rim. Until the Rockfax guidebook came out it was hard to find beta on the routes to do, and we happened to have been recommended the route by a friend. Now we've found that it is described in the Rockfax guide as being "THE major classic, it should be on the list of any serious climber who visits the Verdon." Originally done in 1968 it takes a bold line up a chimney, with 12 pitches, 6 of which are graded 6a (Oz 18ish), it is also given "HVS 5a for 'seasoned crack climbers' or E2 5b for wall-rats!"

We enjoyed the route so much, that when we started to look into the other routes in the gorge, with the help of the Rockfax guide, we were able to see that there were a number of classics that were at a 'reasonable' grade. And that's how our trip planning started...

To set the scene: The majority of the climbing is rap-in climb-out, or top roping from the rim, some 300-400m off the valley floor. It is very spectacular with vultures and pesky tourists around keeping an eye (and cameras) on you. We'd picked out some routes to do, but due to the heat, we had to be careful about planning our day. Corners and sectors that went out of the sun early were identified as places to go, and once we got going we did some spectacular climbs.

Day 1 was remarkable for the strong le Mistral wind howling through the gorge. Mark and Neil had identified a good introductory route called Arete du Belvedere (6a), that was supposedly sheltered from the wind. So we scrambled and rapped down, and were indeed sheltered, until we climbed out onto the exposed arête on the top few pitches...

I remember watching Neil lead out onto the windy side of the arête on pitch 6 and clung on there on jugs waiting for the wind to die down long enough to do a cruxy move to get to the next bolt... It would have been grade 16 climbing if it wasn't for the breeze! Meanwhile I'm getting buffeted about by the invisible force so much that all I can do is hang on and hope he makes it!

Other highlights were doing Le Pilier des Ecureuils (*Squirrel's Pillar*) (6b+) top 5 pitches after rapping down to a large ledge, which was a stunning corner crack, Riviere d'Argent (*Silver River*) (6b+) which involved me being unable to find the last set of anchors and rapping into thin air, before finding a set of old anchors and hav-



The start (or end) of the Verdon Gorge, looking back towards Castellane from the first lookout (belvédère). Photo by Kate Swain

ing to get Neil to give me a scary top rope traverse back to the belays. Climbing was nice though.

An adventure I won't forget any time soon was doing Pichenibule (6c+ A0 or 7c) with Mark. With a description like "perhaps the archetypal Verdon experience, long and committing, on superb rock and with breathtaking positions." how could one resist??!! I had agreed to lead the crux pitch, as long as Mark did the last one described as "the final 'easy' pitch has spaced gear and has caused a few wobblers over the years!"



Neil catching a top rope on a stiff warm up. Photo by Kate Swain

We started from the vegetated ledge which missed out on the first 4 pitches as we started late in the day to avoid the sun. I got lost on the second pitch and had to bail, and redo the pitch which was actually a loooooong traverse around a corner and into a V-chimney on runout bolts to belay on a hanging tree... This was not a good start. Mark started sussing out options for retreat, but I convinced him that the worst was over and we should keep going...

Mark then found the proper belay anchors (and a nice platform) 4 m above my hanging tree. From here the route traverses up and left for some massive exposure and stunning pocket climbing. It was all going more or less to plan, until I hit the crux pitch (4 pitches from the top). I fell off at the 3rd bolt at what I was hoping was a one move wonder... I was wrong! A full 40m of technical, runout grade 23-going-on-26 climbing ensued. I mostly french-freed my way up it (no pun intended) and thought the worst was now over. However we almost got benighted on the last wobbler pitch and called for a top rope. Getting out safely was all that mattered...

Best route of the trip? Wide is Love (6a) one pitch, stunning position, fantastic climbing and enough bolts to keep you sane.



Top: L to R: Neil, Kate, Rich and Mark, photo by the waiter.



Right: Kate leading out on pitch 5 of Pichenibule (6c+ A0) with Mark belaying amongst a sea of limestone. The only way out is up... photo by Neil Gledhill.

Bottom: Mark leading and Rich belaying on the classic 6a Wide is Love (check out the exposure!). Photo by Neil Gledhill

Inset: One of the 'locals' keeping an eye on us. Photo by Kate Swain



Travel:

Fly in to Grenoble (France) (3.5 hrs drive) or Milan (Italy) (5 hrs drive) with one stop over in Dubai with Emirates, and hire a car. Price was approximately \$1800 per person return in September, but cheaper deals for \$1400 were also available. NOTE: the first time we went it was much cheaper to hire a car in Milan, but this trip we rented a van on long-term hire, which was cheaper.

Transport:

You will need to hire a car as the closest camping from the cliff is a 20 minute drive up steep windy roads.

Accommodation:

Most people camp at La Palud, which is a nice campsite, and is the closest place to stay to the climbing. There are not a lot of options here as the town is small, and most other options are pricey. We stayed at a gîte (holiday house) in Rubion, and there are lots of gîtes around, but location is difficult to predict. Go to:

www.gitesdefrance.info for bookings.

Prices ranged from €300/week upwards during the 'off season' which was about September to March.

Weather:

I recommend that the best time of the year to go would be late September or October when it's a bit cooler. We arrived a bit early, but still did a fair amount of climbing. Most climbers seem to go in June to August as this is their summer holidays, so if you go during this time expect it to be busy.

Logistics:

There are two sides of the gorge to climb on: gorge droit (right) and a gorge gauche (left). The main cliffs that are the most spectacular are on the La Palud (right) side of the gorge. There has been a lot of development of smaller, better bolted sports crags on the left side, and on cliffs near the main gorge.

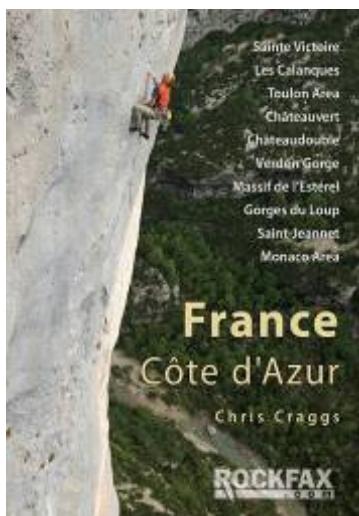
Recommended routes:

La Demande (6a) 12 pitches, Reve de Fer (*Iron Dream*) (6b+) 4 pitches, very exposed, Wide is Love (6a) 1 pitch, l'Arête du Belvédère (6a) 10 pitches (mostly easy).

Guidebooks:

See below

GUIDEBOOKS - VERDON GORGE

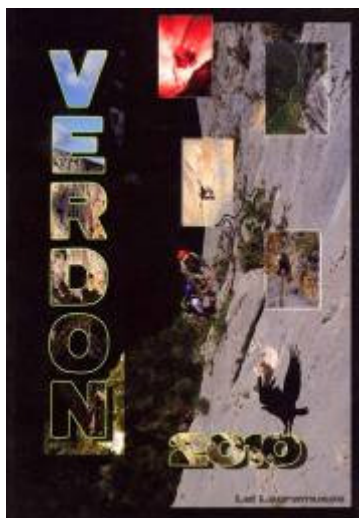


France: Côte d'Azur (Rockfax 2011) By Chris Craggs

This is a select guide to the most popular crags along the Azur Coast including the Verdon Gorge. It offers information such as cliff orientation, busyness and stars. It's great for planning logistics and seeing what other places there are to climb in the region all within a couple of hours drive.

Note that the locals do not like this type of guidebook and refer to it as a 'Vampire Topo'. This is because it takes a lot of its information from the local guidebooks but the revenue does not go back into the local climbing community. The local climbers use the local guidebook proceeds for rebolting and bolting of new routes. Therefore I also recommend getting the local guide. See Below.

Cost: £24.95 (not including postage) from: www.rockfax.com



Verdon 2010 By Lei Lagramusas

This is the comprehensive guide to the right side of the Verdon Gorge. It has colour photo topos, and is a great guide that fills in the blanks between Rockfax guidebook. This is extremely useful to figure out where you are and where the correct rap stations are, as the only way to tell this is to count the number of stations over from a labelled rappel station.

It does not have much in the way of descriptions, the routes are marked as a line on a photograph and it is only available in French. But it gives you a better overall understanding of all the routes that are available in the Verdon.

Cost: 28€ (not including postage) Only available in France?

LOCAL NEWS

CAWA's CHRISTMAS BBQ - 4TH DECEMBER 2011

CAWA held its annual Christmas BBQ once again down at Point Walter Reserve. Festivities kicked off with bouldering at Blackwall Reach (and a swim!) before a gourmet Bain Marie and BBQ provided by Kat & Brenton. There was a nice selection of meats, buns, salads, soft drinks, and Christmas fruit mince pies!

People turned up with their chairs and blankets and caught up with what everyone had been doing during the year.



Rob's girlfriend, Phil and Rob having fun at the annual CAWA Christmas BBQ. Photo by Janice Tong

Overheard were the many comments on how much people had enjoyed the CAWA trips that had been organised throughout the year, and what their plans were to go on the next one (Albany over the Christmas - New Years period. Ideas and queries about new destinations also abounded and where people were heading to next year.

Thanks to everyone who turned up and to Kat and Brenton for organising the yummy food!

NZAC - CAWA SOCIAL MEETING - 5TH DECEMBER 2011

On Monday 5th December the New Zealand Alpine Club (NZAC) in conjunction with CAWA held a Social Meeting at Rosie O'Grady's in Northbridge. The night was organized by Tom Marshall, with guest speaker for the night Ross Weiter.

Ross had recently returned from a very productive two weeks in the Swiss Alps with climbing partner Neil Gledhill. At the beginning of September, the two had gone for the 'Big Three', the Eiger, the Matterhorn and Mont Blanc. After getting snowed off the Mittellegi Ridge route on the Eiger, they went on to summit the nearby Jungfrau instead before successfully completing the latter two objectives. Not a bad couple of weeks!

In Ross's presentation he explained 'How to do easy climbs in the Euro Alps' and gave a great overview of what to do, where to go, what gear to take, how to get around, insurance for alpine climbing and navigating in the Alps.

His talk was very informative, and gave a great comparison to the New Zealand mountains. His main key points were that you need to travel LIGHT, the lighter the better (and Mike Smith also emphasised this point at the talk). Huts are everywhere, and you can buy food, water and beer from most of them, so no need to hike kg's of food and water with you.

Public transport is excellent for getting around, and if you go in June, July and August expect it be crowded! Definitely book huts if you plan to go. September was what he recommended as the rock routes are dry and the snow routes are consolidated.

For his slides go to: <http://rossclimbing.typepad.com>



Top: Neil Gledhill (left) and Ross Weiter (right) on the summit of Mont Blanc.

Bottom: The Matterhorn, which the two summited via the Hornli Ridge. Neil Gledhill



life could be this good!

FEBRUARY 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	2 ~~MEETING~~ CLIMBING @ The Hangout	3 ~~DINNER~~ with inlaws! the hangout!	4 6am @ Mountain Quarry
5 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	6 ~~dinner with~~ the boss CLIMBING @ The Hangout	7 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	8 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	9 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	10 CLIMBING @ The Hangout - then BURGERS + BEER!!!	11 CLIMBING @ The Hangout
12 Stathams @ 6.30am!	13 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	14 *gym drop @ the hangout VALENTINES DAY!!! climbing with my love! :)	15 CAWA AGM! Rosie's @ 7pm	16 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	17 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	18 CLIMBING @ The Hangout
19 rest day?	20 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	21 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	22 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	23 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	24 finish work @ 1pm - drive to Margs!	25 Willyabrup
26 Willyabrup	27 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	28 CLIMBING @ The Hangout	29 CLIMBING @ The Hangout			



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WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST BOULDERING COMPETITION

By Tracy Wall, Assistant Manager, The Hangout

Anyone passing through the doors of The Hangout in late 2011 probably couldn't help but notice an ever increasing number of coloured tags decorating the bouldering cave. For over three months these tags guided climbers through the 2011 Summer Bouldering Competition.

Most bouldering competitions last less than a day. They usually follow a format that involves a "pump fest" for a number of hours followed by a final set of problems for the top scoring climbers. At The Hangout we decided to try something different.

Every second Monday new problems were created. Problems were generally graded from 1 to 6 to indicate their comparative level of difficulty. Competitors accrued points for every problem completed. They were also awarded bonus points for any problems that they flashed (completed first attempt), and for those completed in the first 2 weeks that the problem was created.

We had no idea if this type of competition would captivate climbers or not (it was Gareth's idea, and I must admit that I was sceptical), but we were blown away with the amazing enthusiasm and commitment that all of our competitors brought to it. Our first winter competition went really well and our subsequent 2011 summer competition was even more successful.

With 150 competitors, The Hangout's 2011 Summer Bouldering Competition proved to be the most popular climbing competition ever held in Western Australia! It was so popular that we had to get a new computer for climbers to enter their scores on, as a few pieces of paper stuck to the counter just wasn't going to work anymore.

I think that there were a few different features that made this new format so popular. It allowed people the time and flexibility to boulder when it suited them. It was also sympathetic to very talented climbers who balk at the idea of climbing in front of an audience in a traditional competition final. But the features that we noticed the most were those that the climbers themselves brought to the competition. The boulderers generously

supported, encouraged, celebrated and shared beta with each other. Their commitment and enthusiasm for bouldering was inspiring. Any non-climber that walked in the door would be forgiven for assuming that the competitors were partaking in a team sport.

We were honestly amazed by how much many of our boulderers improved in strength and skills during the competition. It is a credit to WA climbers to see them so driven ...not primarily by winning, but by improving. We

were chuffed to see young 11 year olds Sarah and Jaika swapping their newly purchased harnesses for bouldering brushes! Within a few months they had been taken under the wing by other climbers and were soon out-bouldering plenty of adults.

At the top of the table the tough bouldering technicians battled it out (with friendly comradery) week after week. We watched with bated breath as the men's and women's top places changed repeatedly.

At the start of most shifts our staff would walk in, turn the coffee machine on and bustle to the competition score spreadsheet to see who had taken the lead. It was exciting to watch and became the topic of daily discussions between staff and climbers alike.

In the end the deserving victors were:

Men's 1st Place - Karl Laczko, 2655 points

Men's 2nd Place - Matt Jordan, 2625 points

Men's 3rd Place - Brian Poh, 2610 points

Women's 1st Place - Jo Solomon, 1750 points

Women's 2nd Place - Ning Tan, 1670 points

Women's 3rd Place - Claire Newbury, 1640 points

As this article goes to press The Hangout's boulder wall will be being overhauled for another bouldering competition. So keep training and let's do it all again! Details will be released around February 2012 on www.thehangout.com.au and on our facebook page: The Hangout Indoor Rock Climbing Centre.

Tracy Wall.



CLIMBING COMPETITIONS: INTERNATIONAL

The hometown favorite Ramon Julian Puigblanque took the gold in Barcelona, Spain, at the 2011 lead World Cup season finale.

Puigblanque stuck a hold only touched by Jakob Schubert, who consequently took silver. Sachi Amma of Japan fell lower on the route than both Puigblanque and Schubert had, and finished the event in third place.

Puigblanque's win in Barcelona secured an overall second place finish over a challenge from Amma, and Schubert, who dominated the season with seven wins in a row, easily won the World Cup. Amma clocked in at third. The Canadian climber Sean McColl, who had won the previous World Cup, in Kranj, Slovenia, finished fifth in Barcelona to place in the top 10 overall, with a sixth place.

The women's finale ended in an anticlimactic three-way tie. Angela Eiter, Jain Kim and Mina Markovic topped out all four routes of the event, which caused little change in the overall rankings. Mina Markovic became the 2011 World Cup champion and Jain Kim finished second, followed by Maja Vidmar with the overall bronze.

Source: <http://rockandice.com/news/1717-the-world-cup-season-finale>

WORLD CUP FINAL RANKING

Men's 2011 Lead World Cup Overall Top Ten Results:

1.	Jakob Schubert	AUT	845
2.	Ramón Julian Puigblanque	ESP	661
3.	Sachi Amma	JPN	625
4.	Manuel Romain	FRA	516
5.	Romain Desgranges	FRA	430
6.	Sean McColl	CAN	343
7.	Thomas Tauporn	GER	339
8.	Hyunbin Min	KOR	320
9.	Gauthier Supper	FRA	316
10.	Mario Lechner	AUT	281

Women's 2011 Lead World Cup Overall Top Ten Results:

1.	Mina Markovic	SLO	681
2.	Jain Kim	KOR	681
3.	Maja Vidmar	SLO	535
4.	Angela Eiter	AUT	454
5.	Katharina Posch	AUT	438
6.	Johanna Ernst	AUT	369
7.	Yana Cheresheva	RUS	357
8.	Christine Schranz	AUT	350
9.	Charlotte Durif	FRA	347
10.	Caroline Ciavaldini	FRA	331



Left: Mina Markovic was the winner of the overall Lead World Cup for 2011 after finishing 3rd in the finals in Barcelona in November. Right: Raymon Julian Puigblanque took out the gold in the Barcelona Finals to finish World #2 overall.

Final IFSC World Cup Ranking



Rank#1
Austria



Rank#2
Spain



Rank#3
Japan



Rank#4
France



Rank#5
France

MOVERS & SHAKERS

THIRD WOMAN IN WORLD CLIMBS GRADE 35



So another year has ended and looking back over the past few months has seen a swag of climbers climbing hard. Women have been climbing particularly hard in the last few months with Sasha DiGuilian climbing her first 5.14d (Pure Imagination) and becoming the 3rd woman in the world to do so.

Check out her video at:

<http://vimeo.com/33306702>

Left: Sasha DiGuilian climbing Pure Imagination (5.14d) at the Red River Gorge, Kentucky. Source: SashaDiGuilian

ADAM AND KRISTYNA ONDRA CONTINUE CRUSHING THE GRADES



In October Kristyna and Adam Ondra saw their hard work paying off with Adam climbing his first V15 (Cháron) in the Czech Republic while his sister climbed her first 8b+ (Kudlanka). Less than a month later Adam then climbed his first V16 (Terranova) also located in the Czech Republic.

Adam said about Cháron: "great to feel progression, spent three days on it last winter and now went within 30 minutes. Fits my style exactly". **Editors note:** *I'd also like to do my hardest project in 30 minutes after only trying it for 3 days!*

Newsworthy is also that the their father has done his first 8a! He has reportedly been climbing for more than 25 years, so if his son is also a late bloomer, Adam will do 9c+ when he is his fathers age! (Pepe Piechowicz, care of www.8a.nu)



Left: Adam Ondra climbing Terranova (V16) in the Czech Republic. Photo courtesy of www.climb4fun.cz

Kristyna Ondra climbing Kudlanka (5.14a or 32). Photo courtesy of Czech Climbing

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!

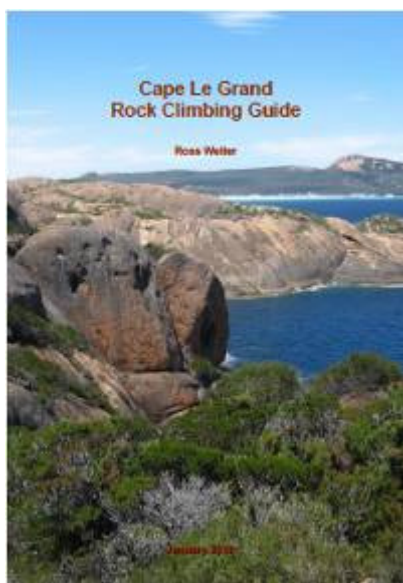
New routes can also be submitted to CAWA forum:

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

CAPE LE GRAND

Posted by: Ross Weiter

Four new routes were put up at in the Cape le Grand area, 65 km east of Esperance by Ross Weiter and Dena Rao. Ross has done a great job putting



together a mini-guide, taking the introduction from Rob Wall's mini-guide, and adding more coloured pictures, good information about the National Park and of course all the routes!

Thanks to Ross for producing such a high quality mini-guide.

www.climberswa.asn.au/climb/mini-guides/

MOUNTAIN QUARRY

The Perfidious Potoroo (15m, 20)

Start between Mullup and Land of the Orange Druggie. 4 fixed hangers to lower off.

CLASSIFIEDS

Do you know CAWA members can place free adverts? Gear for sale, climbing partners, lost gear, lost partners(?), expedition team members, etc. E-mail your classified to editor@climberswa.asn.au by the required submission deadline.

ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN CLIMBER

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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.

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- 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.

2012 CAWA AGM PHOTO COMPETITION

THERE'S STILL TIME TO ENTER!

CAWA are holding a photo competition as part of the AGM on the 15th February 2012. There are two categories:

1. Climbing in WA
2. Climbing Everywhere Else

To Enter send a copy of your photos to:

kates@climberswa.asn.au

Include: the name of the climber, the route, location and name of the photographer.

Entries close on 23rd January 2012

Entries judged on the night by YOU! So turn up and vote!

See CAWA website for more details.

We would also like to put together a CAWA Calendar using your photos, to encourage people to participate in trips and events and to just promote climbing in general. If you do NOT wish to have your photos published as part of the CAWA calendar, please add this to your email entry.

Mark Wood doing what he does best on Silence of the Cams (19) at Mt Frankland. Alan McCulloch belaying. By Kate Swain