



Western Climber News

ISSUE FIVE

OCTOBER 2010

Presidents Couch

Recently, I went on a 'holiday'. At least that was the idea. Even though there was some sight-seeing involved, the epic 7 weeks in Europe was dominated by mountains. Lots of them. Now, don't get me wrong, I love mountains. But when I wasn't actually up a mountain, I was travelling to one, getting ready to go up one or recovering from being up one. I don't think my knees will ever be quite the same again. And I was very grateful for the jelly beans and Natural Confectionery Company jelly babies and dinosaurs that I took from home, because even finding something vaguely resembling a muesli bar in Europe was a challenge.

Did you know that it's actually possible to do an excellent impersonation of an Olympic sprinter while wearing crampons? Especially when being pursued by large rocks hurtling down the Grand Couloir on Mt Blanc so fast that they were generating smoke. Exciting, I hear you say. I suppose it is when you're the one shooting the video from the safety of the hut below. If you don't believe me, check this out (taken the day after we attempted to summit): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gROp65zZXsI>.

After rather a lot of training and acclimatising, it was devastating not to summit Mt Blanc. Even though it's always a possibility, there is a small part of your brain that says surely after you've put in so many months of training, that the weather gods will smile on you. Not so. A combination of rock fall and winds in excess of 60 km per hour meant it just wasn't safe. People die on Mt Blanc so often that it isn't even considered newsworthy.

Instead of summing Mt Blanc, I learned how to ice climb, which I have to say was pretty cool. *Rock and ice*, here I come.

Right. Back to reality. I am very excited to be able to say we are on track with the new *Perth rock climbing guide* which will be available just in time for Christmas.

Negotiations with Adventure Out have yielded some pretty special deals for CAWA members as well as juicy discounts at their gym (the old Urban Ascent), including \$6.50 entry on gym crash nights. Where else can you get your rocks off (no pun intended) so cheaply?

And soon we will have some new CAWA t-shirts in circulation. The design is being finalised as this newsletter goes to print.

It is also time for people to start thinking about whether they would like to help in continuing the committee's work next year. That's right, I'm talking about the AGM coming up in February 2011. All positions will be declared vacant at the AGM and along with president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, there are six ordinary positions to be filled. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Last, but not least, keep an eye out for the details of the CAWA Christmas get together.

Happy climbing

Dena Rao
President

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Emma on *You Don't Know Jack* (17)



Scott giving it the *Full Throttle* (25)



Mark starting *Ithica* (21) with Manuel and Francis belaying Ben on *Jaundice* (14) in the background

Eaglestone Rock

By Francis Butler, photos courtesy of Ashley List

Sometime back in July Ashley List, the esteemed trip organiser, placed a comment on the CAWA forum trying to arouse interest between the usual long weekend adventures for a short trip to Eaglestone Rock. Many showed little interest given the short notice, but of those who did most said, "Eagle what?" Well fortunately in the week preceding the trip a bit of hype brought many out of the woodwork eager to scale this mysterious rock out in the middle of the WA Wheatbelt.



Those that found themselves at Eaglestone did not form the usual CAWA crew. Excepting Kylie, Ang and Mario, it was made up of an unlikely bunch including many newbies. There was Mark the young geologist, who chauffeured Manuel the Spanish gourmet chef, and his humungous esky, in which we all suspected either carried an awful lot of beer or perhaps a body on ice! Then there was Ash and Tamsin who arrived nice and early to take in the scenes, followed a little later by Pete the Kiwi, and finally came Ben the true Aussie larrikin. The recently formed French foreign legion (Remi, Delphine, Loic, Melody, Kevin and others whose names escape me — formed during the Kalbarri adventures) were noticeably absent on this trip, however Kevin crawled in late Saturday morning in his slow and steady chariot, carrying the foreign legions strongest supporters, Eleanor and Emma. Coincidentally, the crew was joined by Logan, Scott and company who had ventured out on a separate expedition yet arrived at the same place. The suspicion was that Logan had turned up with the primary goal of making his first free ascent of Jason's recently completed project *Buried Alive* (31).

Although some climbing had been achieved by the few who trekked out early on Friday, most did not start anything serious till Saturday morning. Ang started out on the recently bolted chimney just to the right of *Levitation*. With a bit of shuffling and a determination Ang made it look quite easy. Inspired by something fresh and the fact that it had looked easy I attempted to lead the same climb shortly after, only to find that it wasn't so easy after all and swore I would never do another off width climb again!!

As all this was going on, the Emu wall had become littered with ropes as many scaled the great face climbs there. Around the corner in the Bitter area Mario was intently trying to scale the hardest climbs he could muster and having a good day of it as he later recalled with Kylie patiently belaying. On the far right of the Emu wall and into the Fidget Gene area Logan and Scott were setting the standard on some tricky moves up *Emu Walking* and *Full Throttle*, edging their way closer to the difficult problems around the corner.

Later on in the day Angela's introduction to classic trad on *Jaundice* left me a bashed up and bleeding mess, though I was ultimately pleased with the experience. While all this was going on Mark and Manuel were taking a beating on *Ithica*, both bowing out defeated. Once again Logan and Scott were just around the corner working another terrifically difficult problem *Whiplash*. Of the many who had finally scaled every inch of the Emu wall, there was *Bitter* in the Bitter area and *Wishbone* on the Wishbone wall to be completed.

Eaglestone Rock (continued)

Once the evening crept in, closing out with a beautiful sun set, everyone headed down to the camp to think about food. Many were content with a little pre-made food even pre-packaged in some cases but certainly not Manuel our gourmet chef as he brought out all the cooking gear and opened up the esky to reveal what was inside. The esky was loaded with vegetables and seafood ready to be prepared on his huge gas heated outdoor cooking pan into a delicious traditional Spanish Paella ready to feed all fiftenn people present (perhaps more I started drinking early and can't remember!!).

With everyone eating better than ever before, the evening started off well with Logan and Scott involving everyone in brain teasers. Before long everyone was content, though a little confused by a few of the brain teasers as the alcohol began to sink in. This was about the point that we all saw the funny side of Emma, Eleanor and Kylie (to mention just a few) indulging in peculiar accents and role playing as they poured port and brandy into each others mouths rather than wasting the energy to first pour it into a glass then again into their mouths. Logical, surely! Even young Pete the Kiwi initially feigning ignorance, somehow ended up taking part in such antics that carried on well into the night.



Eventually the numbers dwindled as all the alcohol wore off and everyone crashed, or so we thought. It turned out that all the sugar in the drinks had gone to Emma's head so she apparently went for a run in the pitch black night to burn off some energy! She arrived casually at breakfast so thankfully she must have found her way.

Sunday was expected to be another big day like Saturday arvo, however reality sank in as many battled sore heads.

Francis and Mario hopped on *Nudie* then spent nearly an hour on *Juice It Up*, a slippery slab with me whining "these shoes just can't cut it" when really I just couldn't make it! Manuel and Mark decided to do something easier and fly up *Bitter*, while Ben was taking his turn on the Emu wall with Tamsin. Ash seemed content to take photos, mainly because his camera provided better vision than his eyes as a result of his epic Saturday night. In his travels he captured a few shots of Scott having a go at *Fidget Gene*, the best crack climb in the area.

Later on Pete had a go at his first trad climb on *Mini Me*. He looked quite perplexed as Ash and Tamsin spun ropes around him like a web in an effort to set up a top belay for his follower. While this was happening Mario and Francis were dismally failing to ascend *21 Jump Street* nearby. Defeated, they decided to convince Ang to join them on an epic struggle up *Cold Nights*, which was an inspiration to Francis after his introduction to trad the previous day.

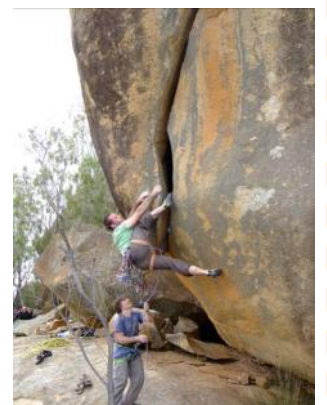
The morning quickly turned into afternoon and people started thinking about having to head off. It was about this time that Logan got serious and ripped his shirt off to have a go at this new problem announced by Jason. Unfortunately it wasn't to be and it would seem that Logan had finally found a problem that he had to concede defeat on, at least for the time being. So around that time people started to wrap things up and all headed off after a satisfying weekend, vowing to do it again soon.



Matt looking 'Seriously' hungry?!



Pete cruising his first trad climb *Mini Me* (10)



Scott showing his stuff on the awesome *Fidget Gene* (23)

Carrot Controversy

Steve Morris from Rock Hardware on karabiners and removable bolt hangers

I am confident that most climbers know not to use wire gate karabiners on removable bolt hangers. There is not enough mass in the wire gate to keep the bolt plate captive on the bolt head. These stainless steel bolts in the rock are often referred to as “carrot” bolts. 3/8” use to be common; however, 10mm appears to have taken its place. Solid gate karabiners are the preferred option when you find carrot bolts and have to use removable bolt plates for protection.



In the last few years it has come to my attention that some straight gate karabiners can come off removable bolt hangers (Refer diagram right). Particularly, karabiners with a key lock nose. The reason for this is because the nose of the key lock karabiner can be quite thin. In the same way a wire gate karabiner can come off with the removable bolt plate, so can a straight gate karabiner with a thin nose profile. I recently tried a dozen or more different straight gate karabiners on a carrot bolt and most hangers came off. Scary stuff!



One option is to clip your straight gate from the front of the hanger, instead of from below. You then rotate the body of the karabiner until the bottom basket of the karabiner is sitting in the bolt plate, keeping it captive on the bolt head. In other words, the nose of the karabiner is well away from the carrot bolt and hanger.



Another option is to use traditional straight gate karabiners with a solid hook type nose that has a solid mass and is not tapered. (Refer diagrams below)



This controversy only applies to carrot type bolts and removable bolt hangers. You can use wire gate karabiners in fixed hangers and this practice is common in Europe. Think about how you can safely protect a climb at all times. I trust this information may assist in keeping you safer while climbing.

Climbing Instruction

CAWA has previously organised climbing instruction courses with Adventure Out and we are pleased to again be able to offer members a few different training options. Participating in such courses not only enhances your technical skills and confidence, but also improves safety out on the rock.

In addition to running courses exclusively for CAWA members at heavily discounted rates, Adventure Out is also offering CAWA members a 15% discount off standard scheduled programs (as listed on their website).

The advantage of courses that are organised specifically for groups of CAWA members is that they can be tailored to incorporate particular skills you may wish to learn and require only a small minimum number of participants.



You will see that we have already organised one course for November 2010, but we would like to hear from those of you who would like us to run some of the other available courses.

It is really important to be able to set up safe anchors and top ropes, so that when participating in any climbing activities you can take responsibility for your own safety and enjoyment. Sometimes there are not enough experienced climbers around to follow up climbs, which means that it can be a frustrating day out. The course outlined on the right will equip you with the skills required to set up your own top ropes.

Some of the available courses include:

- Introductory Rock Climbing
- Single Rope Technique
- Lead Rock Climbing

Please see the Adventure Out website for details.
(<http://www.adventureout.com.au/>)

Next Course:
Introductory Rock Climbing and Basic Rope Work

Date: Saturday 20 November 2010

This is a specially designed condensed version of the 2 day course Adventure Out normally runs. It is ideal for those who have just started climbing or who want to make the transition from indoors to outdoors. The course will be conducted at Churchman's Brook, just near Armadale.

The course can be tailored to suit what you would like to learn but would normally cover:

- **Equipment used in rock climbing**
- **Principles of movement on rock**
- **Knots and rope management**
- **Safety**
- **Anchor points**
- **Belay systems**
- **Abseiling**
- **Rock Climbing ethics**
- **Environmental considerations**

Minimum of four people required to run the course.

Cost: \$169.



Please contact us no later than 10 November to register your interest in this course.

Please contact cawa@climberswa.asn.au for further information.

Upcoming Events

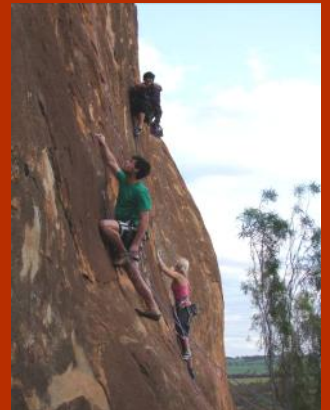
<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Contact</u>
November 9	Gym Crash - The Hangout 12 White St, Bayswater	Brian Tan briant@climberswa.asn.au
December 5	CAWA Xmas BBQ - Point Walter Reserve, Bicton	TBC (cawa@climberswa.asn.au)
December 7	Gym Crash - Adventure Out Climbing Gym. 24 Jackson St, Bassendean	Brian Tan briant@climberswa.asn.au
Dec - Jan	Xmas - New Years Albany Trip	TBC (cawa@climberswa.asn.au)
Feb 16	CAWA AGM	cawa@climberswa.asn.au

New Route at Mountain Quarry

State of Discontent 15m 28

Climbs the arête right of *Sweet Pea* and left of *Black Ambience*. Bouldery and technical — 7P's to double P lower-off. Emil Mandyczewsky October 2010.

A few more photos from
Eaglestone.



Open slather on the
Emu Wall (Matt, Emma,
Eleanor)



Ben loving the Emu Wall

Contact us: www.climberswa.asn.au

Got feedback or some climbing wisdom to share? Send in your letters, articles and/or photos.

Email: cawa@climberswa.asn.au (put newsletter in the subject header)