

In this Issue:

2012 Annual General Meeting

AGM Photo Competition

Toblerone vs Matterhorn

Denali

South Africa

Wilyabrup Trip Report

2012 WA Climbing Competition

western climber

Issue 009 - April to June 2012

Free Newsletter for



CAWA members

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

*** GET INVOLVED IN CAWA ***

Always looking for volunteers and helping hands. Please contact cawa@climberswa.asn.au if you can get involved and contribute to the WA climbing community (we are all volunteers!)



Cover photo: Jon Gregg leading the classic arete Karma (25) at Castle Rock, the Porongurups (Photo: Peter Thomas). This is the winning photograph for Climbs in Western Australia. More photos and winners on Page 12.

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 010 July 2012	Submissions by	18 June 2012
Issue 011 November 2012	Submissions by	17 September 2012
Issue 012 January 2013	Submissions by	07 January 2013
Issue 013 April 2012	Submissions by	15 March 2012

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!

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.

western climber

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Next time, you climb first!

ED'S CORNER

Thanks for your feedback on Western Climber and keep the feedback, articles and photographs coming in. We are essentially engineers expressing our creative sides, which is a frightful concept in itself.

What a bumper start to the year!!! The AGM was a ball, a photo comp was run, a calendar has been published, a trip has been run and we all got tied up in knots. And this is only the first quarter of the year. Take a look at the calendar planned for 2012—there is definitely something to whet every single appetite.

The WC will cover this and more. This is YOUR magazine, so encourage others to share their stories too! We would love to hear from climbers from all walks of life—if you have an experience or knowledge to share, write in!

We are also taking requests and recommendations for content—as at times, we get stuck too. What is it that our members are interested in? Let us know.....

See you on the rocks (and at the comps) in 2012!

Kate Swain and Allison Low
Editors, Western Climber

FEATURE STORIES

2012 AGM & PHOTO COMP	11
<i>Ross Weiter</i>	
TOBLERONE VS. MATTERHORN	14
<i>Ross Weiter</i>	
DENALI	17
<i>Rodney Tan</i>	
SOUTH AFRICA	22
<i>Drew Korck</i>	
WILYABRUP TRIP REPORT	25
<i>Stewart Sant</i>	
LOCAL NEWS	30
<i>Damien Hall, Anthony Brandis</i>	
WA CLIMBING COMPETITION	32
<i>Anthony Brandis</i>	

REGULAR STUFF

CAWA COMMITTEE & CONTACTS	2
ED'S CORNER	3
CAWA CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
INDOOR GYM LOCATIONS	4
PRESIDENTS REPORT	5
OFF BELAY (<i>News and gossip</i>)	7
ACCESS	9
BEYOND THE SANDY DESERT	-
ALL ABOUT THE RACK	33
NEW ROUTES	34
CLASSIFIEDS	34

CAWA CALENDAR

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

- 1 May **Gym Crash**
The Hangout, 6:00pm
- 9 May **Social Night - The Oldies**
Rosie O'Gradies, 6:30pm
- 16 May **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome
- 30 May— 2 June **BANFF Mountain Film Festival**
Perth State Theatre, 7:00pm
*** More Information on Page XX ***

June

- 2 - 4 June **Trip - Kalbarri**
Trip Coordinator - Janice Tong
- 7 June **Gym Crash**
Rockface, 6:00pm
- 9 June **Competition —Bouldering Heat #1**
Location and time TBA
- 13 June **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome
- 20 June **Social Night—Rock Quiz**
Location and time TBA

July

- 3 July **Gym Crash**
The Hangout, 6:00pm
- 18 July **Committee Meeting**
Submissions welcome
- 28 July **Competition —Bouldering Heat #2 & Finals**
Location and time TBA

Please check CAWA Website for updates on the location and times for the Bouldering Competitions. Competitions for Sport Lead Heat #1 will be held in August, followed by Sport Lead Heat #2 and Finals in September. Time to train!!!

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

City Summit 2/26 Harris Road, Malaga 92487035
Website: www.citysummit.com.au

NOTICES

Weekend Climbing

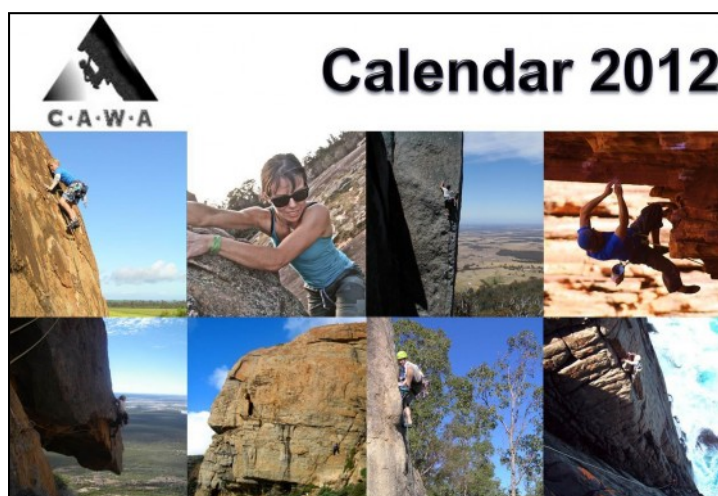
CAWA are looking for trip co-ordinators for weekend climbs around Perth. Please e-mail CAWA if you are willing to participate as a trip co-ordinator and encourage others to head outdoors!

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.

***** Hot off the Press!!! *****

**The 2012 CAWA Calendar is available now.
Only \$10 each, limited numbers available.**



The calendar runs to January 2013 and features photos from the competition of WA's best climbing spots as well as the 2012 Calendar. E-mail cawa@climberswa.asn.au to order and arrange for pick-up location. There aren't many left—so first in, best dressed!!!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I'm enjoying a flat white (extra shot) at my fav cafe at the bottom of Risley St, looking at the CAWA Calendar for 2012. We've got lots on!

Since the last Western Climber which came out in January we've had a huge CAWA AGM in February, a "Knots Knight", a climbing trip to Willy's and the first Committee meeting of the new year. We have also had the famous CAWA Film Night, and coming up soon... an "Oldies Presentation Night", a social event with the UWA ODC, and Banff is already being booked !!!

And that's not even half way through the year. We're working on the CAWA Climbing Competition that will span June to September 2012, and alongside that there is the "Rock Quiz" evening, the formal mid-year CAWA Dinner Dance, and two climbing presentations, one on "Competitive Strategy" and another on climbing overseas.

And that's not all folks !!!! There are climbing trips to Kalbarri, Eaglestone, Willy's and Albany/WCH. In the fourth quarter of the year there is a self-rescue event being planned, a Wine Tasting evening (adjudicated by Phil - Executive Sponsor), more climbing events and the regular "B&B" - Blackwall and BBQ..

Our new Committee is keeping your President busy, and in coffee (extra shot). The AGM, by all accounts was effort well spent with a great agenda. Then there were almost 40 people who turned up at Rosie's for the "Knots Knight" - Thanks to Anthony, Mark, Trevor, Jonas and the other "Knots Masters". The Willy's trip filled up quickly and no doubt the trips and events coming up later this year will likewise be well attended.

But it's not about how much we have on for the year, how many new members we get or how many places we can climb in. We also need to be cognisant of our role as visitors to the location we go to, the environment we climb in, the people and groups around us. We have no more right than any other public or commercial interest. I am sure you will agree that CAWA is a recognised and respected association of climbers. Our duty as members is to maintain a high level of consideration and respect of others around us and make sure we support the environment we climb in by doing our bit. About our responsibility as corporate citizens, you will hear more about it in the coming months.

You have a great and enthusiastic Committee this year. I am particularly indebted to Kate Swain who has taken the role of Vice President, and who provides that background check that we all need. Mark Kleinman has picked up the Secretary's role quickly and Anthony Brandis along with Trevor Peter are managing the events throughout the year. Janice is juggling her climbing trip coordination role with a FIFO job, Kylie has a lovely new baby and a move to the quiet south west, and is still online sorting out membership and financial duties for CAWA ! Brenton is running the Gym Crash's which we hope will include City Summit this year and Wally, while not wearing the latest in latex leggings, provides that backup that most of us need and get from him. George Firth has joined us to help manage the myriad of stakeholder relationships and consultations we need to have with local agencies and govt. departments. Not to forget the effort that Allison and Kate put in to the Western Climber once again - Good job guys!

I'm really excited about the 2012 year for CAWA. It's got a lot going for it. As members, I urge you all to get more involved, come along to the Committee Meetings if you want to, put your hand up to help when it's needed and let us know what's on your mind..

Oh, I know what's on my mind... Excuse me, another flat white for me please.... Extra shot !

Tony Brebner
CAWA President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Kate/Alison,

How great it is to see Western Climber revived! Congratulations to you both.

In the Off Belay column of issue 7, under 'CAWA plans for 2012', you state "Some ideas include . . . the first WA state climbing competition". I'm not sure if this was a misprint, as CAWA has put on many state climbing competitions over the years. My knowledge goes back only 18 years ago, when I moved to WA, so there may well be many more, but here is a quick rundown for your historical interest:

Around November 1993, CAWA held a state climbing championship at the Albany Leisure & Aquatic Centre (I understand their climbing wall no longer exists). 80s legend and south-coast hard man Andreas Roilo was favourite to win, but two 17 year old unknowns, Chris Jones and Joel Booth, fought out a tie-breaker that saw Chris take the prize. Both these guys went on to leave their mark with significant achievements in the WA climbing scene.

In April 1995 Derek Toulalan & Andrew Corbe organised for CAWA what I suspect were the first truly public state climbing championships, held on the Esplanade parkland in Fremantle on a 16m high timber-clad scaffold tower. As an active CAWA member and project manager in my career, I was brought in about a month before the event in the role of Event Director. Derek was competing, so could not manage issues on the day, and I suspect wanted to shed some pre-comp stress so he could focus on training. The event was received with great enthusiasm, with large crowds gathering on the esplanade lawns to watch. Derek, Andrew and I took most of the next 12 months to organise a repeat event for 1996, this time in Forrest Place, right outside Myer. Held in March 1996 it was a massive success, with the whole of Forrest Place packed with spectators. Once again we had Australian Sport Climbing Federation (ASCF) judges and route-setters flown in, and competitors from all over Australia. We spent many months securing sponsorship, organising scaffolding, security, liaising with the City of Perth, billeting interstate competitors, etc. The cost to stage the 1996 event had tripled from the previous year, and I recall we fell about \$1000 dollars short of break even, but the impact on the sport as a whole was of far more value. The above events were all run under the name of CAWA, by a sub-committee of CAWA members and with funding and insurance provided by the club.

Straight after the March 1996 event, we started work on a 1997 event, but after getting firm quotes for all the work,

found the costs had more than tripled again (minimum of \$36,000 to stage it at the time). Whilst we produced some very professional sponsorship invitations, we were unable to secure sufficient funds and the event was abandoned.

In late 1996, I bought a half-share in Rockface with my business partner Gerard, and from around 1998 until 2009, Rockface supported CAWA annually by hosting the state lead-climbing championships every year. We covered all costs to run the event, and CAWA kept the entry fees, in what I understand was their biggest fund raiser each year. The only exception was one year during Toc's presidency, when CAWA paid Rockface a fixed fee to stage the event. Whilst less than the cost of hosting the event, Rockface was most grateful for CAWA's kind gesture. In some of the earlier years (circa 1999-2003), both The Overhang and The Hangout hosted rounds of both lead-climbing and/or bouldering competitions on various occasions; it was a truly round-robin series. In the case of the bouldering series, the final round (where the state champion for the year was named) rotated each year so each gym took a turn at hosting it. In time Anthony's (The Overhang) interests moved elsewhere and The Hangout dropped out as well, leaving just the one annual event at Rockface.

During the late 90s/early 2000s, we still had some Australian Sport-Climbing Federation judges/route-setters come over to give these events a formal 'stamp of national approval' but the ASCF 'fell in to disrepair' in the early 2000s (I really don't know what happened!) and no one over east replied to our emails any more. The ASCF was finally resurrected as Sport Climbing Australia that you know today, with some new-found enthusiasm from the likes of Rob and Carlie LeBreton and a host of other talent.

I 'retired' from managing these annual championships around 2006. Long-time Rockface staff member, and my regular partner in running the events up till 2006, Gareth Wall took on the workload, running them just as professionally, but adding his own unique 'flavour' to the events to make them even more fun. Gareth's resignation from Rockface in July 2010 left us without anyone with the knowledge and time to organise the event, so for the past 12-18 months there has been no CAWA lead climbing competition, but this really is the first time in nearly 20 years that there hasn't been some form of official CAWA state climbing competition!

David Brereton
Co-Director, Rockface

ED'S RESPONSE

Dear David,

Thanks very much for your insightful history on WA Championships and climbing competitions in WA. CAWA look forward to hosting some more bumper climbing competitions again this year with the Rockface and the new (yet to open!) City Summit. The Hangout has declined the invitation this year as they are hosting their own informal bouldering competitions throughout the year, but they also look forward to becoming part of an annual climbing competition series in the future. So once again we can have a truly round robin event run in WA.

A professional events coordinator (and climber) Anthony Brandis is leading the sub-committee this year and next working towards a huge nationally accredited competition event next year. CAWA looks forward to once again raising the bar and working with you and other enthusiastic and knowledgeable people to volunteer their time and effort into kicking the competition climbing scene in WA back up and running.

Thanks for making us realise how high the bar is already set!

Kate Swain

CAWA Vice President/Western Climber Editor

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...).

TONY GOES DUTCH IN MARCH

Mixing work with play... CAWA President Tony Brebner is venturing to the "Klimmuur-en Boulder Centrum" in Utrecht, Netherlands while gallivanting through Europe. On-location beer-on-tap was part of the deciding factor! Check out the gym: <http://www.klimmuur-utrecht.nl/>



Photo (Top): Klimmuur-en Boulder Centrum gym
Source: Klimmuur-en Boulder Centrum gym website



Photo (Top): Tony partaking in some Dutch brew... Wonder if it's pre- or post-work out??? **Photo (Bottom):** Busy night at the climbing gym. **Photos by:** Tony Brebner



Tony is also planning to scale the Excalibur, the tallest artificial climbing wall, located in Amsterdam. This crazy outdoor wall spirals 37m into the sky and can be climbed from all sides, creating a challenging climb for all. A photograph of this mad climbing wall is on the next page. Hopefully Tony will return with photographic evidence of making it to the top—and the amazing view from the top of the spire.

WALLY HEADS TO NEW ZEALAND

Wally is headed to New Zealand's South Island for one month (Ed: lucky, lucky boy!!!) to explore and climb in the Darrins, Castle Hill and other areas. We hope that Wally will take lots of photos and tell us all about it in a future WC (*hint*).

LOGAN & OWEN BACK FROM PATAGONIA

Logan & Owen have recently completed an epic 6-week climbing adventure in Patagonia, South America. His amazing stories and images will (hopefully) be a feature story in the next Western Climber (if we get permission from the guys), so watch this space!!!

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Photo: Kathryn Ackroyd—Stainless Steel (21)



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Photo (Top): The Excalibur climbing wall ... Wonder how they manage in the European weather???

ACCESS

WILYABRUP PERMIT SYSTEM

Wilyabrup is a popular location for recreational climbers, commercial climbing and abseiling groups. As such there have been a few clashes as to who has right of way on the cliffs. A few years ago, a meeting was held with all stakeholder groups having representatives invited to organise a better access system to the cliff. What came out of it was a permit and booking system, which is now in place but which climbers may not be aware of.

The permit and booking system applies to groups of more than 5 people, with a cost of \$8 per person. However, recreational climbers are excluded from this as the person leading the group, (and therefore making the booking) needs to be NOLRS qualified and registered (National Outdoor Leadership Registration Scheme) in order to 'lead' the group. Most recreational climbers are not qualified (and climb under their own acceptance of the risks involved) and so therefore this does not apply to us, and this

was recognised and acknowledged in the meeting, as well as the fact that a lot of the time we don't climb in large groups, so it wouldn't be a problem.

However, there have been times (like the last Willy's trip for example) where large groups of climbers have gone to Willy's, and although climbers have just as much right to the cliff as commercial groups, a conflict of interest arises as to who has right of way (especially as we have not paid!). The understanding must come from both sides, but we as climbers must understand that a commercial operator (and his clients) get annoyed as they have had to pay to go... which creates conflict. It does not give them any more right to use the area than a climber, but I can understand the awkwardness that must arrive when their clients want to get full value for money, but the operator is unable to use the best looking wall as there are climbers all over it!

Therefore I suggest that if there are large groups of climbers going, that someone phones up and enquires if there are any large bookings, and to 'register' the group so DEC can manage the numbers. This way if a large commercial group does call to book after us, they are warned that there is going to be a large group there, and vice versa. Ultimately we don't want to be excluded from the cliff for not following the rules and we don't want to cause problems that can't otherwise be easily managed. To register, call the DEC operated Calgardup Cave booking centre (Margaret River) on 9757-7422.

Most commercial operators work during the week, so it should not be a problem, but if there is a large group booked in, personally I would like to know about it and organise to go somewhere else.

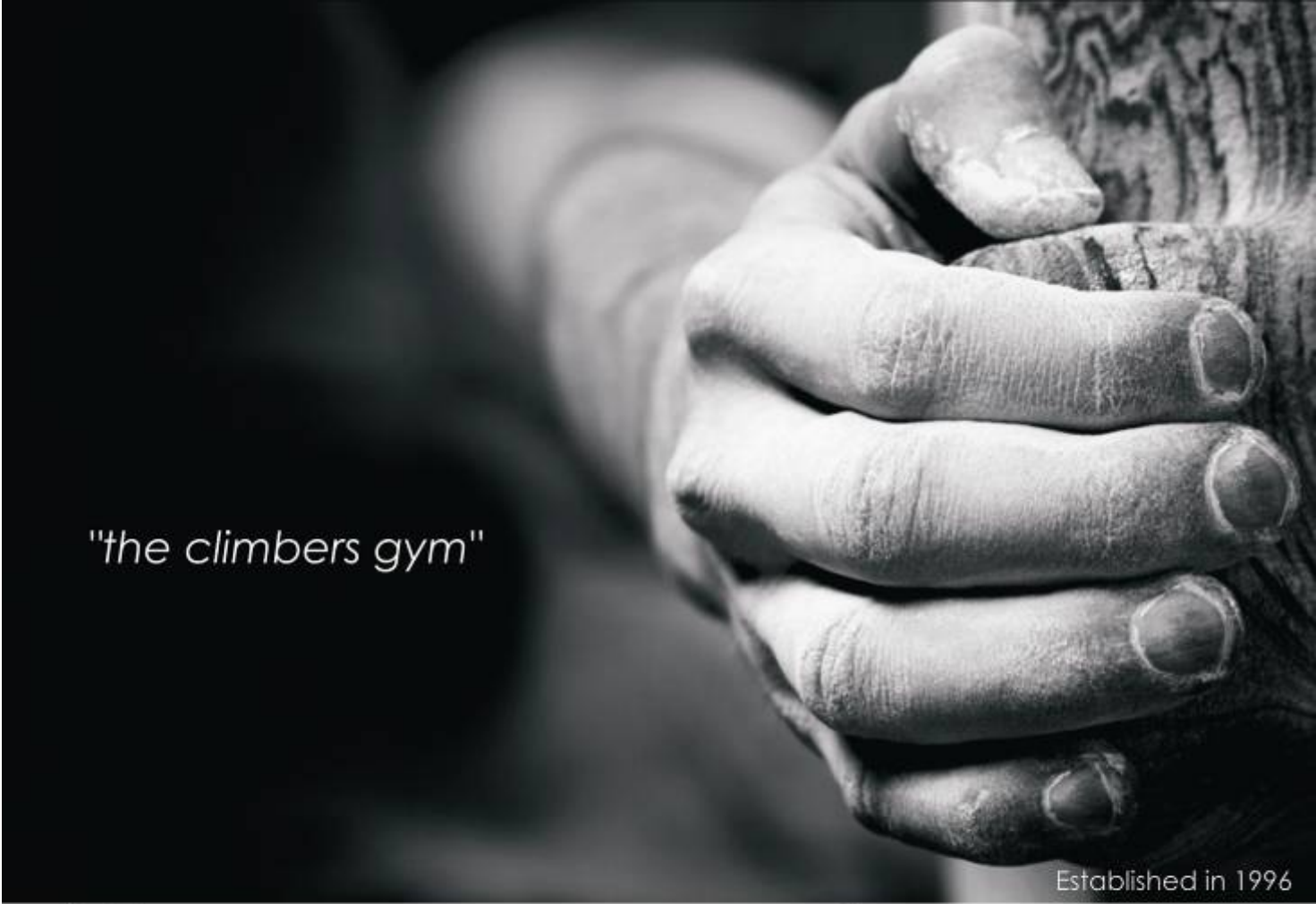
CAPE LE GRAND ACCESS

March 2012—All climbing in the Cape Le Grand National Park is currently prohibited. CAWA are in the process of negotiating future access. Stay tuned to "Access" for further news in the future.

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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2012 CAWA AGM

By : Ross Weiter

Traditionally, the CAWA AGM has been THE climbing event to ignore. The main feature was the unappealing prospect of being roped into a Committee role, where one would fester in anonymous unrewarding slavery for the following twelve months.

The 2011 AGM was so dismal that, for sheer lack of interest, it had to be held twice. The first time not enough people turned up. The next time those who did turn up were shocked to discover that the old committee was resigning en masse. Me included. If the rats were leaving the sinking ship, then why get on? We only just managed to cobble a committee together after much embarrassed navel gazing.



Photo: Tony Brebner (President) running a slick show. Photo courtesy of Ross Weiter (rossclimbing.typepad.com).

At the 2012 CAWA AGM, that lesson was clearly remembered. Everything was different. The main event was not the election. In fact the embarrassment of volunteer-based democracy had been neatly shouldered aside by pre-filling the positions and then simply asking the relieved audience - how about it?...to a quiet but resounding "YES! YES!". This is presumably why benevolent dictatorships are so popular in China, Russia and Queensland.

This allowed all to move onto things more fun. The main event was the 100kg giant of man - PATRICK HOLLINGWORTH. Clearly gifted with physical talent (has done the Rotto swim twice, solo); with strong will in the face of early failure (when there were many summits he did NOT climb) and with an inspired vision of Everest success, he did it on his first try, without guides. Pat's version of climbing involves deeds very different from ours here in WA. Messner once said that "Mountaineering is the art of putting one foot above another, for a very long time".



Photo: Presentation by Patrick Hollingworth. Photo courtesy of Ross Weiter (rossclimbing.typepad.com).

Then there was a photo comp, where despite stacking the field with many photographs of my own, I won nothing. Must try harder next year.....but I did notice that the public ignored big frozen mountain pics, preferring scantily clad male boulderers draped over chalk-covered holds. I blame the considerable number of females in the audience for that one. With my looks and natural aptitude for bouldering, I may have to go and join William Buckley on that one.

Kate produced a smashing 2012 WA Climbing Calendar, showing that our rock looks as good as anywhere else in the world. Then I won a door prize, a Rockface T shirt, and many others scored something similar. In the end everyone was a winner.....somehow, among all this action I forgot that I was at an AGM and started really enjoying myself.

Tony presided over events with charm of and ease born of wisdom and experience. The catering staff swarmed over the 57 climbers, the projector actually worked, and everybody thought that the cost of putting on the show was money well spent.

OK, I had some initial reservations but I do know I have to sell 200 guidebooks to pay for it.....but I think I am in a tight arsed minority of one.....the general opinion being —what is money for?

One thing that became very clear real quick was that this year will be exciting, that there are some motivated people in charge (including a professional events manager!) and that after organising umpteen events over my ten years on the committee I can't bloody well wait to just rock up and be entertained. Keep them coming! :)

2011 PHOTO COMP WINNERS!

The CAWA Photographic Competition was held during the CAWA AGM. Two categories were open: first climbing photographs taken in Western Australia and secondly, for climbing photographs taken anywhere else. Winners are grinners, as they went home with amazing prizes sponsored by CAWA.



FIRST PRIZE: WA PHOTOGRAPH

Photograph By: Peter Thomas

Left: The winning WA photograph of Jon Gregg bravely leading Karma (25) at Castle Rock in the Porongorups. Peter won a \$100 Mainpeak voucher.

SECOND PRIZE: WA PHOTOGRAPH

Photograph By: Brian Tan

Below: Winner of the lovely book “World Climbing: Images from the Edge” by Simon Carter. The photo is of Remi Vignals leading out on Just Call Me Thor (23) at Peak Charles.



THIRD PRIZE: WA PHOTOGRAPH

Photograph By: Karen Magistro

Splicing By: Anthony Brandis

Left: A unique splice of Leslie Rayment, belayed by Anthony Brandis on The Climb (18) at West Cape Howe. Karen and Anthony were rewarded for their creativity with a 3-year subscription to the ROCK Magazine. Well done!!!

2011 PHOTO COMP WINNERS!

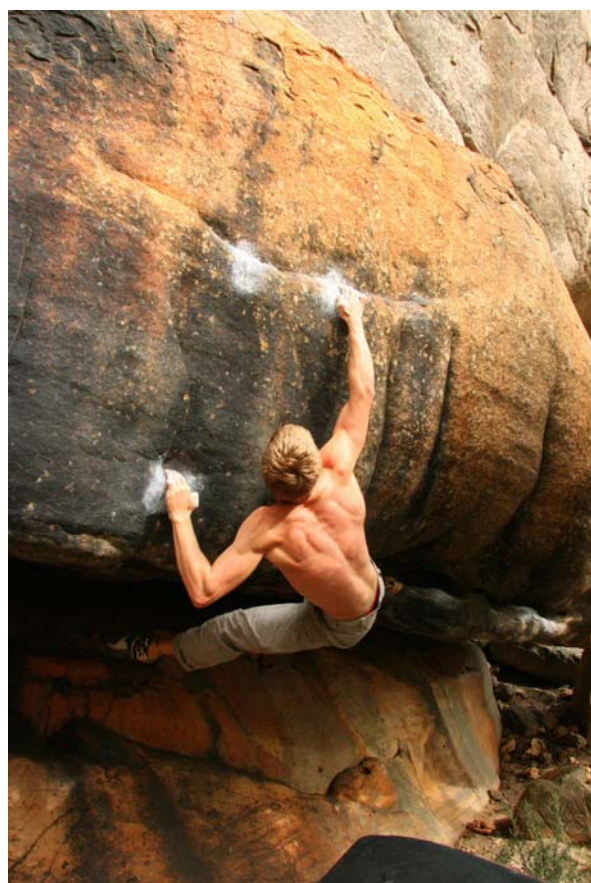


FIRST PRIZE: CLIMBING ELSEWHERE

Photograph By: Peter Treeby

Entry Winner: Wilson Tucker

Left: A breath taking image of Wilson Tucker conquering Weaverworld (23) in The Gallery, part of the epic Grampians in Victoria. Wilson scored a \$100 gift voucher to splurge at Paddy Pallins.



SECOND PRIZE: CLIMBING ELSEWHERE

Photograph By: Brian Tan

Left: Joshua Thelwell working on Tantrum (V11) in the Grampians. Brian won "Word Climbing: Rock Odyssey" by Simon Carter.



THIRD PRIZE: CLIMBING ELSEWHERE

Photograph By: Delphine Chabanne

Entry Winner: Remi Vignals

Top: Remi Vignals on Screaming Insanity (26) at Coolum Cave in Queensland. (Ed: Ouch—looks like everyone would scream on that climb!) Delphine and Remi won a 3-year subscription to ROCK Magazine.



GET SNAPPING FOR THE 2012 PHOTO COMP!

After valuable feedback from our valued members (see we DO listen!!!), the photo competition will be slightly modified in 2012. The categories remain the same, however entry will be limited to the photographer only and the photos will need to have been taken in 2012. We will also come up with a better way for people to view and vote on their favourites. Stay tuned for developments and announcements.

TOBLERONE VS. MATTERHORN

By Ross Weiter

Both are shaped as pyramids. Both are made in Switzerland and much sought after, both have over 100 years of history.....but that is where the similarities end. While Toblerone is made from nougat, almonds and honey, the Matterhorn is made of rock, snow and climbing history. Then there is the size difference. And finally, Toblerone makes people fat, whereas the Matterhorn makes them skinny.....unless you are a Zermatt mountain guide in which case it makes your wallet fat but that is another matter.



Photo (Left): The Matterhorn, with the Hornli Ridge (in full view and glory Central Route).

Photo By: Ross Weiter

Photo (Top): Neil Gledhill about half-way up.

Photo By: Ross Weiter

At 4478 metres it is in the top ten highest peaks in the Alps, and has no easy “walking” routes - it was one of the last peaks to be climbed. The obsessive **Edward Whymper** made eight attempts before finally succeeding in 1865 on what is now known as the Hornli Ridge (SW Ridge). On the descent the least experienced member of his seven-man party slipped and dragged three others to their death, falling down the North Face. This caused a large kerfuffle in the climbing world at the time, with accusations of rope cutting, ego, ambition: your standard alpine tragedy stuff.

Zermatt is the township under the mountain. I like the place, as it has no cars in it, is made of wood and stone, and although it is full of tourists, the pace is somehow relaxed. Think Disneyworld in the Alps, without the noisy kids. There are many amenities: train station, large supermarket, lots of hotels ranging from moderate to insanely expensive and cable cars to drag your butt up the boring bottom parts of the surrounding hills. In 2010 I climbed **Dufourspitze** from here with Dena, and in 2011 I was back with Neil to climb the Hornli Ridge of the **Matterhorn**. Being lazy and sleepy now, I shall quote from my diary:

9 Sep 2011: We caught the cable car to the Schwarzsee - got a return ticket for A\$30 with our Swiss Half Fare Pass. From there we ascended the steep zigzags to the Hornli Hut (HH) in 1hr 45min. I then went to check out the start of the route for an hour or so while Neil drank beer. HH has no running water and I had to buy 3L of water for A\$20. What a ripoff! I should have carried it uphill...damn. Accommodation is A\$45 without membership, A\$42 with alpine club membership. Getup call is at 5am tomorrow, with people asked not to start before 5:30 am. Should be a good day!



Photo (Top): Saint Bernard, 20m below the summit.
Photo By: Ross Weiter

Photo (Bottom): Ross Weiter on typical scramble up mixed alpine terrain. Photo By: Neil Gledhill



10 Sep 2011: Got up at 5am along with everybody else and out of the door at 5:40am, first Swiss guides, then other guides, then unguided people like us. We soon caught up with a guide (with a client) who knew the way. I knew that he knew because I was there the day before! We stayed out of his way and he did not seem to care. It was pitch black for the first hour or so. There was a lot of scrambling, in fact the whole climb is one fantastic giant scramble, mostly along talus slopes, minor buttresses and side-ridges. All the time you are on the left side of the ridge, so one gets more of an impression of traversing a face rather than ascending a ridge.

After 3 hours and some waiting behind slower parties at a couple of bottlenecks we arrived at the Solvay emergency bivouac hut. This is where we put on crampons. The section above Solvay is considerably more technical, with many fixed ropes and exposure on the ridge and on the final headwall. Without the fixed ropes and metal stakes spaced out at 20-30m intervals this would be a stiff climb. One can see why the first ascent party in 1865 strayed onto the North Face, away from the ridge (which has some steps in it). ...the going there is easier but far more exposed.

After five hours from the start we paused at the black statue of St Bernard and stood on the summit. This was on the bottom end of the guidebook range of 5-6hours so we felt pretty good about it. Hurray! We climbed the Hornli Ridge (grade AD-)^, 1250m above the hut and 2000m above the Schwarzsee lift station.

It was a bit like doing The Nose in Yosemite...there is no Alpine route more classic than this....not the biggest, hardest, cleanest, nicest or whatever....just the most classic. 150 years ago this was the hardest alpine route in the world (like El Cap was the hardest big wall 60 years ago)...now it is a trade route, but the history remains. I like history. It makes me feel like I have some connection to those climbers before me, in this case very hard men, no lightweight gear, crampons or karabiners, but with hemp ropes, agricultural pick axes, and a large pair of what the Spanish call *cojones*.

It was a clear sky day, with perfect views in all directions, very different from our experience on the Eiger a few days earlier. We spent half an hour on the summit taking pictures and eating. It was then another five hours to descend to the Hornli Hut, this time scrambling downwards (descending the same route). After the roped bit was over somewhere along the way, Neil stopped waiting for me and disappeared. I tumbled elatedly down slabs and gullies, with no others in sight most of the time. I climbed the Matterhorn!

This is a great route up a great mountain and was a fantastic experience. There were some 40 climbers on the route that day, about half of the summer number, but any hold-ups and bottlenecks were minor. The most awkward part was the ridge just below the summit; with some parties descending while others were still climbing up...all on the same fixed ropes. But with some consideration and deference it all worked OK. In the evening we bought the hut dinner and stuffed ourselves. then slept...or tried to sleep....in a crowded and stuffy dorm on the third floor. Good for further acclimatisation for Mont Blanc though.

11 Sep 2012: We descended back down to the cable car and dropped down to Zermatt. My knees seemed OK; the walking poles are definitely helping on the descents. There were only a couple of people on the track that early in the morning. I walked down wearing my "skins" - another useful modern invention, and then got changed into trousers just before the lift so I don't look like a rock jock from the 80s.

We caught the 11:13am train to Chamonix, France, a journey of less than 4 hours. It seems that every train trip in Switzerland takes under 4 hours! There I went to the 'supermarche' and bought a big bar of the white Toblerone.... my bit of the Matterhorn also available at the candy store near you!!



Photo (Top and Left): Ross and Neil on the Summit
Photos By: Ross Weiter



Ed's Pick.....

Love the stories and photos Ross—I am enjoying the read, warm on my sofa and munching on... Toblerone :) Surely that comes close enough???



Text and Photographs By Rodney Tan

Denali is the native word for North America's highest peak Mount McKinley, part of the Alaska Range. It is one of the "7-Summits" (the seven highest peaks on each of the seven continents) and is considered one of the coldest mountains in the world. Dangerous and beautiful, Rodney went to experience it for himself in 2009.

His climbing party of 12 had the goal of ascending the standard and most popular West Buttress Route and descend the Mudrow Glacier Route and thus, complete a whole traverse of the mountain. The finish would be at Wonder Lake, some 60km from the base of the mountain, and not all 12 would complete their objective.....

The expedition really started at Talkeetna as we made our way to the Kahiltna airstrip where we loaded the masses of gear, approximately 70 kg per person including group gear, into a small plane. Before the flight we visited the cemetery nearby to pay respect to the fallen climbers of Denali. As we sat tight during the flight, it took us up past the tundra and then skilfully close to the sharp ridge mountainsides of the imposing and seemingly never ending Alaska Range. It was magnificent scenery and we landed at base camp on Kahiltna Glacier at 2200 metres altitude on our June day. The visibility was poor when we landed and we were totally unaware of the surroundings.

After we set up camp, we were treated to an unusual shower of slushy rain, which rarely happens in Denali. All the gear became wet and heavy and we had to retreat to the cook tent to make the necessary modification to rucksacks, sleds and harnesses that are required to

climbing and moving safely on such big and notorious glaciers, which we would soon experience over the next three weeks. Overnight the slushy rain turned into solid ice and was weighing our tents down heavily. The relatively warm temperature of the previous day had disappeared and we were really feeling the cold dry air, which meant we were going to move. But, as we were going to find out, this previous weather had a lasting effect on Kahiltna Glacier. Today we were going to attempt to negotiate the glacier and move up to 2400m, Camp 1, located at the North East Fork Junction.

For our first full day on the glacier the normal aim would be to carry a cache of food, fuel and equipment to Camp 1, at the North East Junction, then return to Base Camp. However, not wanting to get stuck at Base Camp, and wanting to take advantage of the colder weather (colder the better for glacier travel), we packed up everything and 'single carried' towards our second camp below Ski Hills at 3430m. The route initially drops down Heart Break Hill, aptly named I imagine for those tired climbers returning from the standard West Buttress attempt, who face one final uphill push. But as we were attempting to traverse Denali and finishing off at Wonder Lake, we set off looking forward to our own adventure, never to experience that particular 'heart break', or so we thought.

We set off in teams, moving across the glacier and despite our heavy loads, most of us were doing well. One climber however was already struggling badly and after some consultation with the guides it was decided that his trip would have to come to a end! As the climber would have to head back to camp and wait for the next avail-



Photo (Top Left): Caching food and gear. **Photo (Top Right):** Steep ascent up a snow slope on Denali.

Photo (Bottom Left): Summit Fever in the Air. **Photo (Bottom**



able flight back to Talkeetna, to be safe, an rope team of 4 volunteered to accompany him back, myself included. I found myself leading the rope team back to base camp and was treated with awesome scenery in the clear conditions. We were all rewarded when we reached base camp with an incredible view that we had been denied on our first day, and it made me realised what a spectacular place were landed on

After we said our farewell to the retiring climber, we left base camp for the second time to catch up to the other teams at Camp 1. It wasn't long before we saw some large holes in some of the ice bridges en-route, but we made good progress and arrived at Camp 1 understandably knackered after an extra 13 km on a single carry day. As we arrived we quickly learned that this was not the same fate for the other rope teams who had arrived at Camp 1 earlier. They had experienced two big crevasse falls, one which took an hour and a half to get the climber out. Thankfully no one was hurt. Eventful but a small taste of things to come.

The second day we carried a load towards Camp 2 at 3430 m. The climbing involved a long haul up Ski Hill to the head of Kahiltna Glacier, but we actually cached at Kahiltna Pass and returned back to Camp 1. This is

'expedition' style as it involves 'climb high, sleep low' approach and it is part of the process of acclimatisation. The only disadvantage is that you would have probably climbed the mountain three times in distance-wise when once you finally reach the summit. The weather at Camp 1, although cold, had not really been too bad but on the carry up we definitely noticed that we were moving into a different layer of weather on the mountain, as visibility dropped and winds picked up. We saw a small bird that had been blown up the mountain and flew around us aimlessly in the white-out only to drop down and die in the bitter cold. Tragic. Life is harsh.

Day three saw us move camp. Although the loads were lighter in our packs due to caching the previous day and some being on our sleds, it felt just as hard as a normal carry day as we had to take down camp and then put up camp again on arrival. The move today was still a tough one though, as a storm was brewing and when we reached Camp 2, the storm was peaking and wind was ferocious. The storm that had greeted us on our arrival to Camp 2 had subsided by the morning of day four, and comparative warmth in our tents has been replaced with a cold but calm camp. We easily retrieved the cache from below Camp 2 for this active rest day.

The objective of Day 5 was to set ourselves up for a light move day by carrying a heavy load up to just past Windy Corner (4030m). Before reaching this notorious place, the plateau itself provided us with a taste of things to come. I got my first sign of altitude sickness here: slight nausea with a light headache. This is normal for me as I know from previous expeditions on Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua and Elbrus, 4000m to 4500m mark is the most delicate stage for me. While we rested on the plateau, I took off my left mitten to reach into my pocket to get an energy bar and a gust of wind blew the mitten away and, as luck would have it, this was into the direction of one of the other climbers 15 metres away. My expedition would have been over if I had lost that left mitten as I surely would have gotten frostbite without it. We cached around Windy Corner and were quick to move into a safe area as a climber was killed here last season when a big chunk of rock landed on him.

The following Day 6 was a beautifully clear and my altitude sickness had gone. In fact it was pretty hot, particularly when we got moving. The extremes in temperature on Denali are just that – two extremes, obviously incredibly cold most of the time, but on occasions also really hot, particularly when moving upwards, carrying loads and in the sun. It seems climbers have to spend most of their time trying to react to the changing weather and temperatures than actually being appropriately dressed.

We packed Camp 2 and moved increasingly slowly to Camp 3 at 4340m at the base of the Headwall. This is a big established Camp with a feeling of community due to the number of climbers here all waiting for a weather window. This camp has a permanent ranger settlement

during the climbing season to mount rescues and other missions, not to mention that it is the main springboard for summit attempts. The site is on a huge plateau and is on sage ground. Although the village of tents and the community makes it feel safe, it is at 4340m which on Denali feels higher due to a lower barometric pressure caused by a thinner troposphere at the 'latitudes'.

The start of the second week on the mountain saw us go back down to Windy Corner to retrieve our supplies but some of the team were starting to feel the effects of altitude and needed a rest day. Drinking at least three litres of fluids during the night helps to reduce the symptoms. The temperature got down to minus 33°C. We cached again just below Washburn's Thumb at 4950m, where the Traverse starts to stand out as a much tougher expedition than the standard West Buttress attempt. The loads carried from now on are considerably heavier than any other parties on the Buttress and we also had sleds, we needed everything to make it up, over and out to Wonder Lake.

We lost three climbers from the group on day 10 due to altitude sickness, despite the rest day. It was a bad day for the team taking the number down to eight. On day 11 we were pushed into action up the headwall onto the ridge and towards Camp 4 at 5180m. I struggled at first. It was spectacular with steep fixed rope sections and sharp knife-edged ridges with sheer drops to the glaciers. Ambitious plans were made for day 12 with the psychological relief of reaching Camp 4 where most summit attempts are made from. Hardly anyone, if anyone, had summited throughout the previous month (May). There was summit fever!



Photo (Top): Rodney on the summit of Denali.



Photo (Right): Carrying pack and sled.

The following morning was cold but clear. The plan we had previously made was looking slightly less do-able as we all awoke feeling groggy and tired. Our ambitious plan was to return down the ridge to retrieve our cache and then continue up with the carry past Camp 4 and up onto the 'Autobahn' and over Denali Pass (5550m) effectively doing two days in one. After completing the first half of the plan, the lead guide Chris came to me for a one-on-one chat. I previously asked for rest day back at Camp 3 and was showing signs of tiredness. He was under the impression that I too should retire from the expedition. After a brief and somewhat heated 'discussion', he agreed that I should continue. Despite the little disagreement, I really liked Chris with his hard core approach, strict nazi-style method and the fact that he knew exactly what it took to tackle the whole climb. The other six climbers made the carry while Chris and I rested at Camp 4 and prepared dinner/hot drinks for their return. It got extremely cold (minus 36°C at 6:00 p.m.) with exposure to the harsh winds. But day 13 proved to be even colder!

It was 'traverse or bust' from now on and the eight of us were totally isolated in finding our own path. We were met by the ferocious winds and temperatures dropped considerably as we crossed to the north side on the Upper Harper Glacier, and a big Denali storm was building around us. We were walking on un-trodden, un-probed ground and as conditions rapidly worsened to a full arctic storm, with gusts up to 100 km/h and temperature and wind chill at their lowest yet, we were looking for a place we could make camp quick smart!

We eventually found a safe area just above the Harper Icefall at about 5315m and visibility was down to about 10m. We probed the area for hidden crevasses and then began to cut out a ledge for us to pitch our three tents. The wind chill was about minus 60°C

The storm had not eased overnight, and the wind outside was blowing in 80 to 90 km/h gusts. We were not going anywhere on day 14. Everything froze (including sunscreen) that was kept close to us in sleeping bags or down jackets. The storm died a little on day 15, but it did not feel like a summit day. We retrieved gear from our cache and returned to camp. On descent, the conditions worsened and we were again in minus 35°C to minus 40°C and 80 km/h gusts. Visibility was down to 5 metres. My left crampon suddenly gave way as we approached the camp and I fell awkwardly in the hard ice. I was lucky that this happened only 100m away from our camp and I hopped to camp with my right crampon. Fortunately it was fixed easily.

The following morning was greeted with great views and cold beautiful start meaning just one thing, it was 'Summit Day'. We set off early and pushing up hard to the summit with our light packs of 10 to 15 kg.

Photo (Bottom): Steep traverse with sleds hanging off



From Denali Pass, the route breaks right up a very long but low-angled snow and ice slope, between rock buttresses to Arch Deacons Tower on the edge of the summit plateau. A short descent leads onto the 'Football Field', which itself is just below the final couple of obstacles before the summit. It is followed by a steep snow slope around 100 metres high called Pig Hill, intersecting the summit ridge at Kahiltna Horn. There was a final cornice crossing that proved interesting as one of our team members caused the whole cornice to 'whumff' and shudder as he moved across it (but thankfully it did not break off and we all made it).

The job was far from done. Our plan was to descend to the 3000 metre camp at Muldrow Glacier in order to avoid getting trapped at a higher camp during big storms. We were confident but it turned out to be an epic with snow conditions under foot starting to break-up and a few crevasse falls around the Harper Icefall punching through the ice bridges up to the waist.

The descent of the Karsten's Ridge was a steep and tricky crux. I found myself not keeping the same stride as my other team members due to different a smaller size. I found myself almost running down with a full pack and sled to avoid being dragged along by the faster member in front in deep powdery snow. This was tough with just one trekking axe and carrying a 35 kg pack and having a 15 kg sled. At one stage, the snow suddenly gave way and I took a massive tumble for about 10m down a 65 degree slope. I ended up facing down on my stomach with the huge pack on my back and the sled dangling off the pack looking straight down into the void and glacier below some 1000m down! I lay there for a little while being shit scared and wondering how the hell I was going to get up and out of this

predicament. I managed with some twisting and turning, taking around 15 minutes to rejoin the team. It was cold in the 'night' and we set up camp on the compression zone of the glacier at around 3025 metres, resting the following day while really appreciating just how active and dangerous the Muldrow Glacier really is, as we heard it constantly cracking and popping all around us.

The Muldrow Glacier has been described as a Disneyland of huge crevasses and tricky icefalls. We felt privileged to be where so few people ever go, but as we were about to find out, it can very quickly change from a Disneyland of ice, to a very serious and potentially deadly game. It felt otherworldly as we set off the next day, in and out, up and down, over and around the obstacles on the dangerous glacier.

White-out conditions ensued that day and we could smell burning pine from probably forest fires in the distant tundra. We came to a section called the 'Hill of Cracks' where crevasses start to run in every direction rather than parallel to each other. Tension was very high. It was too dangerous to set up camp and wait. We had crossed a particular crevasse a few times and had fallen through the snow on the other side in a number of directions and about the size of half a football pitch apart. This meant one of two things: we were either standing on top of a huge pillar of ice, or we had unwittingly found ourselves dangerously and precariously above a giant sinkhole. Our judgement suggested that the ice

could not hold our weight. Then all of a sudden, before anyone could react, we all sank instantly. 'Whuunmmft', it echoed all over the valley of ice. It was eerie and scary, like the sound of a huge lightning strike at close range. The whole platform of ice that we stood on dropped at least 20 cm and then came to rest. There was no reason why the platform could not get more unstable. We all turned and 'ran' without hesitation back over the original crevasse, with no probing or question of what we were running over. That had just been answered. Phew! At one stage I honestly didn't see how we would get off the Muldrow Glacier alive.

After 20 hours, numerous occasions jumping across holes, building anchors to protect the leaps, probing every step of the way, we covered only 10 km or so; but we had made it onto solid ground. We finally camped just short of McGonagall Pass at 1795 metres.

The final 2-day push required carrying and dragging our sleds (50 kg to 60 kg per person), over rocks, shale, scree slopes and snow patches. We climbed up and over McGonagall Pass and clumsily down the boulder-ridden other side. This was followed by a 45 km trek over untrodden tundra vegetation with billions of unrelenting mosquitos, a hole in my sled gathering rocks, an icy cold crossing of 20-odd braids of glacial river water to reach our destination of Wonder Lake (640 m) at 2:00 a.m. triumphant after three weeks, having 'Summited and Traversed' Denali.



Photo (Top Left): Very steep descent on soft snow with sleds.

Photo (Top Right): Camping on the Tundra with billions of unrelenting mosquitoes.

Photo (Bottom Left): The eight successful climbers after arriving back from Wonder Lake.

CLIMBING IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Drew Korck



When it comes to climbing, South Africa has a wealth of options to offer the intrepid, adventurous climber looking for new or different thrills and challenges. Trad, sport, free and some of the best bouldering in the world to name just a few.

With such a vast array of climbing spots its difficult to decide where to begin, from the majestic and somewhat daunting Table Mountain in Cape Town to the massively led out routes in Boven and of course lets not forget the vast infinitely explorable Rocklands in the Western Cape. With so much potential laying in wait throughout the country I think it would be best for us to delve a little into the somewhat undiscovered world of climbing in Durban and the surrounding areas.

I should start off by briefly bringing some context to “Durban”. She is a city whose bosom is snuggled warmly against the coast on the east side while on her west she has the Drakensberg, a range of mountains that stretches its fingers deep into the wilderness of Africa. Durban is widely regarded as the playground of South Africa. The climbing here is rich in diversity and quality.

Just 30 minutes from Durban there is the Shongweni Resources Reserve which has what is widely considered to be some of the best overhung cave climbing in the world. It is to be found at a crag called “Wave Cave”, an apt name due to the fact that as you emerge from the long difficult approach and dense bush you are at the base of a literal wave of rock that makes you stop and stare! The approach in is a long, tough one that takes just over an hour if you blaze a fast pace, it criss-crosses a river for a while and leads you through some gorgeous bush that is bristling with flora and fauna! The approach

Photo (Top Left):The Drakensberg Foothills which is located only 1 hour outside of Durban. **Photo (Top Right):** Unknown climber pushing through the crux to the chains at Rumdoodle.

to Wave Cave alone is worth the effort. The fact that you are rewarded with a treasure trove of routes at the end is just unbelievable. The easiest climb in “The Cave” is a juggy but technical 23 and the highest graded route is a 33 by the name of “Thanatos”. There are a couple open projects that are expected to come in at 34!

If cave climbing is not your thing you could always get yourself over to Monteseel. This is trad climbers heaven with scores of open routes and endless variations. Monteseel is unique in that it can accommodate everything from first time “traddies” to the battle hardened pro with climbs that appear simple until you have to find placement for your protection. There are obviously too



Photo (Top):Unknown climber on indoor wall at a local gym.

many crags to mention each one in this article. However, what is of more importance than the climbs is the scene and the people.

The climbing culture here, as it is in the general world-wide climbing community, is one of encouragement and enthusiasm. People are keen to get out every opportunity they get and seeing new faces on the rock is a common sight. Most of the natural climbing happens on the weekend, when you will find crags active and full, having said that there are many secret spots if you are willing to look for them. During the week the general scene is in the local climbing gyms where the focus is more on fun than sending routes. Most of the climbing during the summer months happens in the early morning and late afternoon as it gets too hot to climb effectively during midday hours.

The approaches and scrambles into climbs are generally pretty tough and exposed here in the province Natal which adds to the adventure and romance of it all as you can very easily find yourself at work in the city on a Friday day and then in the afternoon you can be in such a remote location that you no longer have cell phone reception, you are an hour from your car and all that is around you is your climbing buddies and nature. On the topic of nature, that is something we have a lot of, from

a smorgasboard of snakes as well as a bunch of spiders you can even, at times, catch a fleeting glimpse of a dassie (small mammal resembling a rabbit, only bigger and more agile).

Generally speaking we have a climbing scene that spans all 12 months of the year, however that's not to say that you can climb everywhere for all 12 months. For example, Wave Cave cannot be climbed during the peak summer months as the rocks start to sweat and seep water from all the rain in the region, the same kind of problems occur on various crags but it does all balance out as there are areas good in winter and excellent in summer and others just the opposite.

One last important point to note, should you ever come over and try your hand at any of our climbs, is that while on the surface the grading systems seems identical between our two countries there is one small difference. That is this, an Australian route graded 20 would be graded a 21 over here, thankfully it is not as confusing as one would first think as it is completely linear. So no matter what grade you talking about just remember that we are always one grade up from yours. Some argue that's because Australians are better climbers and so grade their climbs easier, I say you should come over and do some climbing here for yourself and decide.

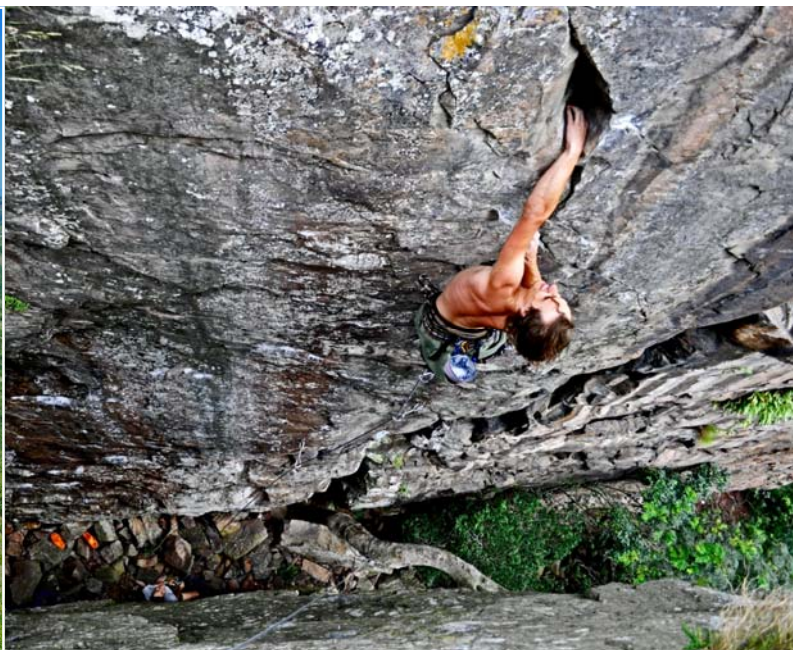


Photo (Top): Jared Miller pushing through the last move on "Mr. Furious" at Rumdoodle.

Photo (Left): Wesley Black cutting loose at the end of a long trad ascent of "Sizzle" at Monteseel.



Janet had to sit down.

THE HANGOUT'S HARNESS AND SHOE RUN OUT SALE

left her feeling more giddy than a run out on pitons and hemp rope!



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EVOLV PONTAS

CAWA WILYABRUP TRIP REPORT

By Stewart Sant

With most climbers taking on the crowded streets and highways to get to the campground on Friday night, there were only a few who were missing from the list that made the early morning dash to join us on Saturday. With a quick feed and the bags packed, it was a convoy of cars leaving for Wilyabrup with the President up front.

After running back to the car for his coffee and joining us at the top of the crag where Jonas was giving us a safety briefing, Tony led the way to the edge (harnessed in) as we set up some top ropes for the first of many climbs.

Brepus (10m, 10); *Grindstone Reminiscence* (10m, 18); *Twenty Questions* (10m, 12) and *The Spin Of It* (15m, 24) were all set up first. The latter wasn't too popular for a first up start but Mark and Tony thought they'd give it a crack, much to the dismay of both Mark and Tony! Almost all of the crew gave *Brepus* a go with Joyce and Meghan being the standout efforts.

Nads and I gave *Twenty Questions* a crack while Jonas was leading (not literally) the way on *Grindstone* with Caren. This one proved to be a quizzical one with the 'Three Musketeers' Nick, Shaun and Trent aka 'Ben' finding the start of their weekend a little tough. They soon showed everyone they were better than that though and were the main stayers of climbing for the weekend with an exceptional route list checked off.

With everyone conquering a bit in this area and the group being joined by a few additional climbers who came up that morning, we soon branched out around the corner to popular climbs including *Inner Space* (15m, 17**); *Totally Awesome* (17m, 19***); *One for the Road* (18m, 19***); and *Stainless Steel* (30m, 21***).

Inner Space and *Totally Awesome* were enjoyed by most, especially Jaro who convinced me to do the latter first cause he liked it better. Both *Stainless Steel* and *One for the Road* were big hits with the ropes staying up for the rest of the day. The girls Caren, Kim and Nads dug deep up *One for the Road* along with Tim and the three musketeers who showed their strength and powered up. Jonas, Tony and Mark gave excellent performances on *Stainless Steel* with the motivation to lead it the next day.



Around lunchtime Tim, Mark, Mike and Tony were getting their packs out and playing with their trad gear on a few walls much to their excitement. It was around this time that people started to wane, feeling the pinch of a solid mornings session. Only Trent and Nick were left at the end, oh and one other girl (who's name escapes me) who wouldn't let them out of her sights.

With most going for a swim and some going surfing in the late afternoon, we all met back at camp where we were to be joined by Paul and Michael. Carens' slack line was a *big* hit and the next challenge to everyone's keen sense of adventure. It was quite entertaining watching the attempts and after a few beers it looked like Jaro was going to get it, until a chair two metres to his left got in his way! A few enjoyed a meal at the pub while the rest (including the boys who eventually made it back after dark) enjoyed a meal and beers at camp.

Everyone was up early Sunday morning and eager to get into the day. By 8am we were on our way, some to Willy, some to Bobs and some to the surf. It was a day for lead climbing with everyone stepping up in class.

Photo (Left): Meghan conquering *Twenty Questions* (12).



ONE FOR THE ROAD CRUX MONTAGE

SO HOW DO YOU HANDLE THE
CRUX? OUR CAWA TRIPPERS
SHOW OFF THEIR INDIVIDUAL
STYLE...

Photo (Top Right): Shaun pushing through the crux.

Photo (Top Left): Karen showing how the girls do it!!!

Photo (Bottom Right): Direct approach by Jonas.

Photo (Bottom Left): Trent showing off his flexibility!

Ed: Just goes to show that everyone has their own style and technique... Getting to the top is all that matters!



Jonas had a vision and he was to easily make it come true by leading *One for the Road* on trad. Caren was inspired by him and really, really wanted to lead the same climb but succumbed and top-roped it instead. Nads and I gave *Setting Sun* (13m, 15*) a topping before leading it with the help of Marks top cam placement. The musketeers were at it again next to us heading up *Fat Crack* (15m, 15) as well as *Inner Space*. Joyce and Meghan were getting right into it too and were just behind the boys up *Fat Crack* along with Mark. Tony was in for the big one and set his sights on leading *Stainless Steel*.

This was the main climb for the day; Jonas easily ascending once again on trad, Tony then doing the same, followed by Shaun, Nick, Trent and Caren on top rope. Nads and I set up *Fat Chance* (15m, 20**), which was a toughie. It's got a really good crux move that requires delicate fingers – something I don't have. I finally made my ascent, to then see Nads cruise on up - I suppose it helps to watch first!! Jonas struggled his first attempt before making a clean ascent and was left wondering what his problem was the first time round. Trent was bewildered on it and after a few goes gave it in. After all, it was late afternoon at this stage and we were all a bit pumped.

With Sean cleaning the lines at *Stainless* and *Fat Chance*, the rest of us took refuge in the natural pool just below. It was a welcome relief from the 38 degree heat and a great spot to watch the last of the climbers.

Back at camp and it was again the slack line to entertain us. Tim was a natural, Nads and Jonas got it, Caren was lying on it and the rest of us were trying our best. With a couple of cars once again going into town for some pub grub, Tim, Kim and Paul told us about their day on the water and at Bobs while we cooked up a storm on the Webber and reflected on our own feats.

After a solid weekend of climbing and temperatures being in the high 30's, only three climbed on the Monday - you guessed it, the Musketeers. Everyone else was done with fingers in tatters and muscles aching. Plus the thought of all that traffic coming home in the afternoon didn't appeal to anyone. A few of us decided a swim, snorkel and surf were a good alternative at Yallingup.

Overall it was a fantastic weekend had by all. Well done to the President Tony, for organising and making sure everyone was in the loop. Also to Mark and Jonas for their leading hands. To Caren for the slack line - I think you might have pumped up their sales! To Jaro for his sleeping bag! I can't believe we packed everything except something to sleep under!! And to everyone else who made the weekend such a special one. It was a really good group and put the passion of climbing back into the arms of those who hadn't done it in a while.

Until next time, "Climb when ready!"

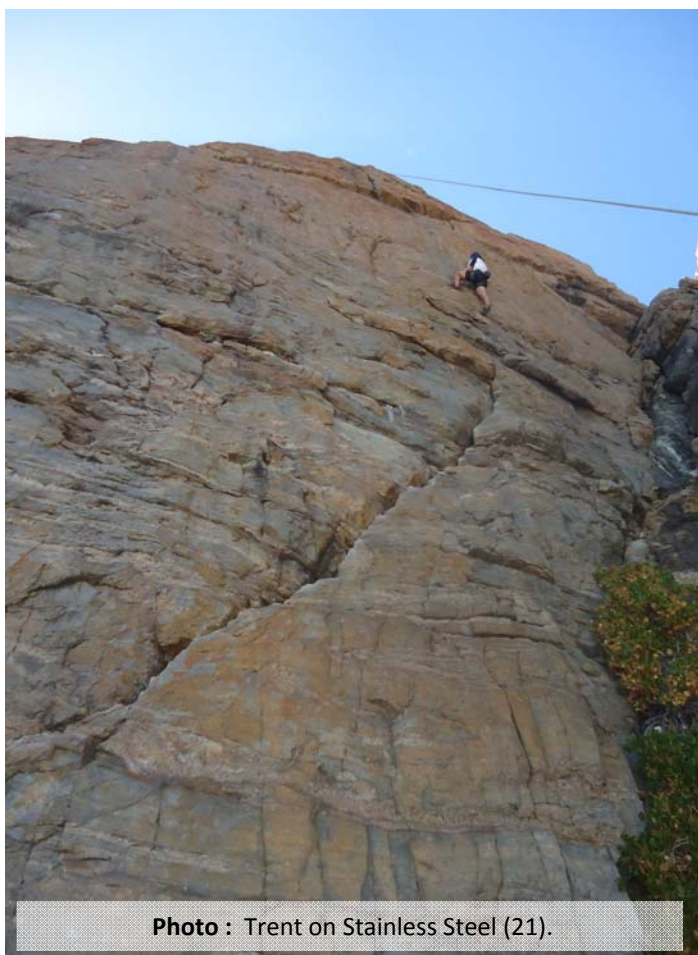


Photo : Trent on Stainless Steel (21).

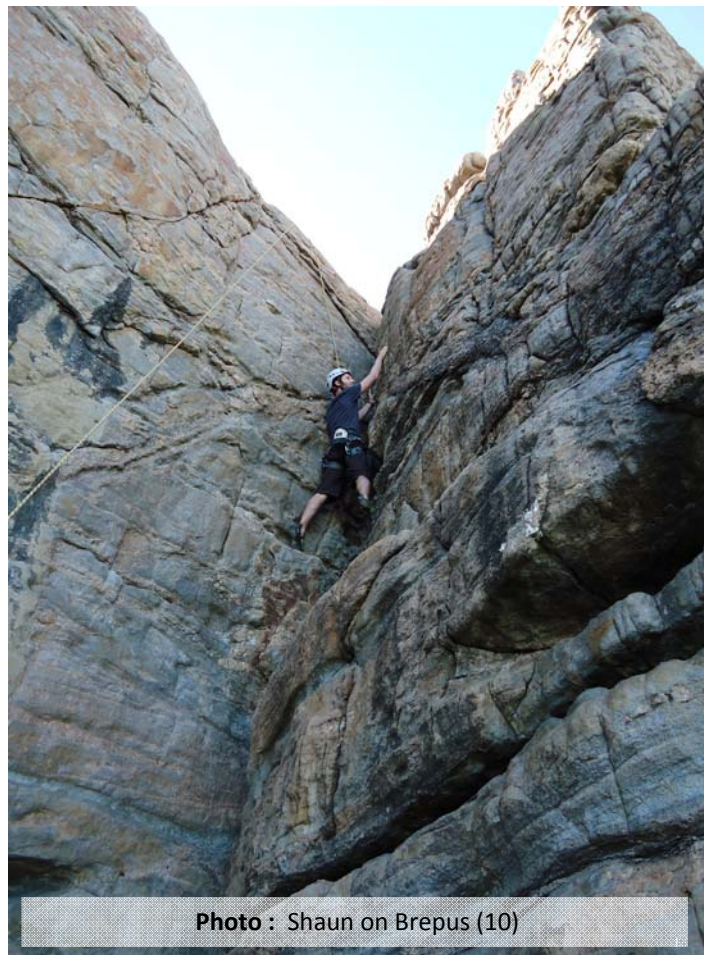


Photo : Shaun on Brepus (10)



Photo (Top): CAWA Wilyabrup Tripper—Happy Campers!!! Photograph By: Mark Kleinman



Photo (Top Left): Not a bad lunch spot really... What a view and brilliant place to climb!

Photo (Top Right): Tim getting "inducted" into the world of slack-lining...

Photo (Left): Ed—I've been told these are the "Three Musketeers"....



AN OBITUARY TO LINCOLN HALL

By Jim Truscott

BREAKING GROUND FOR THE REST TO FOLLOW....

I first met and climbed with Lincoln Hall at Booromba when he was in the Australian National University Mountaineering Club and I was at RMC Duntroon. We did not have a club at the time and I eagerly sought out climbing partners in Canberra in 1975.

He was a tall gangly bloke and an unlikely looking climber with a cheery disposition. But climb he did in earnest in New Zealand and the Himalayas, including being a member of the first Australian ascent of Everest in 1984.

Even though a qualified zoologist he chose a career in mountaineering and guiding. While I never climbed with him again, our paths crossed on many occasions in the Sothorn Alps of New Zealand.



Photo (Top): Lincoln Hall, climbing junkie at a crag in the Blue Lake in 1975 (the early days). He is pictured in red in the centre of the image. **Source:** Courtesy of the Lincoln Hall Private Collection, published on the Australian Geographic website.



Photo (Top): Lincoln Hall, Australian mountaineer, who summited Mount Everest in 2006 and survived a night in the death zone. **Source:** Courtesy of the Lincoln Hall Private Collection, published on the Australian Geographic website.

It was almost if we had parallel careers as the army was also something for me to do between expeditions, prior to our Army Alpine Association ascent of Everest in 1988.

He sustained many injuries over the years from being frostbitten on Dunagiri in 1978 to his near death experience from altitude sickness on Everest again in 2006, until lung cancer claimed his life at the age of 56.

He wrote several books about his experiences including "White Limbo" the history making climb of Everest in 1988 and "Dead Lucky" after his successful ascent in 2006 where he was left for dead and miraculously rescued.

Tragically he passed away on 20 March 2012, caused by mesothelioma from contact with asbestos in his youth. He will be remembered as a successful climber, adventurer and writer who was committed to the Australian Himalayan Foundation.

Jim Truscott

LINCOLN HALL REMEMBERED

Lincoln Hall was an inspiration to many Australians and his achievements have been acknowledged throughout the years. By 1987, Lincoln received an Order of Australia Medal for his service to mountaineering. Fast forward to 2010 when Lincoln was awarded the "Lifetime of Adventure Award" by the Australian Geographic Society.

More information on Lincoln Hall, please visit his website. Here you can purchase DVDs, Books and Learn more about his adventures; keeping his memory alive.

Lincoln Hall Webpage:
<http://dwp.bigplanet.com/lincolnh>

CITY SUMMIT—THE DREAM CATCHER

By Damien Hall, General Manager, City Summit

Perth's new project has the arrived at City Summit... The DreamCatcher.

As with projects of the scale and proportion that City Summit has undertaken, delays and set backs are inevitable and the published date of the CAWA closed event for opening in the 2012 calendar has unfortunately been delayed... again. However some huge inroads have been made in the last few weeks with a massive step forward with the erection of the DreamCatcher wall; Perth's newest and arguably most difficult indoor project.

It is amazing to see the centre take shape and often it is difficult to picture how a wall will look as it sits on the warehouse floor in sections and unclad. It is only when the ply has been fitted and the pieces are erected that the true size and shape of a wall is realized; even if you where the one who designed it the first place. Both Nigel and I stood in awe at the size and difficulty of the DreamCatcher when it was finally put into place on the 18th of March. It truly is something to see and fear. There is still a fair bit of work to go into finalizing the wall as it needs to be pulled into shape and fitted off, gaps filled and of course the grade 36 traversing DreamCatcher line set yet you can still see just how difficult this face is going to be.

Route setting and finishing touches should be completed in the next few weeks and the wall finally painted ready for the assault at the CAWA Closed event opening date.

The DreamCatcher run will be set using the boards only, no holds as that would be too easy; it's the only way we can see to get the desired grade of 36. A plaque will be erected for the first ascent, so get into training to have your name etched in stone (so to speak). If we get the route right, this should take a while for someone to achieve!

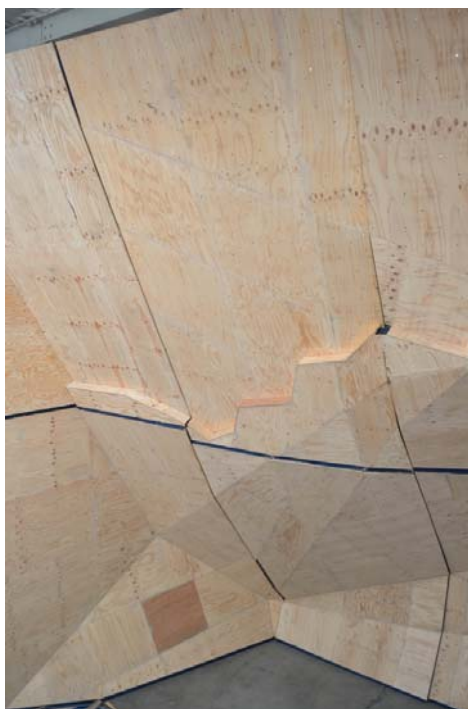
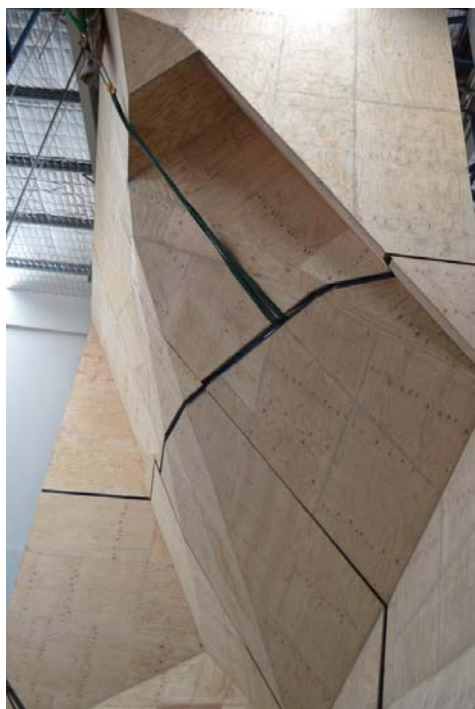
The wall not only provides an awesome climb with the traversing DreamCatcher route but has also given us some amazing lines that will challenge the most experienced climbers. The team at City Summit is extremely pleased and impressed with our main feature wall, the angled face represents a 45 degree angle that slopes back some 6 meters in a straight line climb; throw into that an inverted overhang and it is more than challenging. This wall will be a dedicated lead wall and will provide some great bouldering.

We are now on the downhill run to opening with two more walls to be clad and erected, being the SpiderWall and the 5.4m high bouldering wall. The climbing equipment has now been ordered and received at City Summit and route setting due to commence on all walls in the next week or two. The holds are almost all complete (we designed and made them ourselves), providing us with good variety that should see us meet expectations to provide challenging climbs to all levels.

An official opening date has been suspended until we are definitely three weeks from opening and should leave enough time to prepare for the closed event to all CAWA members, keep an eye out for emails and news feeds. If you want to be one of the first to tackle the walls at City Summit make sure your CAWA membership is up to date. Keep an eye on the **City Summit news feeds** for regular updates, membership forms and passes should be available in the next few weeks so be one of the first to get your membership sorted.

Not long now and Perth's Premier Climbing Centre will be open and

***Photos :** Sneak peek of the completed DreamCatcher Wall—who's up first???*





CAWA SOCIAL NIGHT—COME BANFF WITH US

WEDNESDAY 30 MAY & THURSDAY 31 MAY

Join CAWA at the BANFF Mountain Film Festival World Tour (www.banffaustralia.com.au). Playing at the new Perth State Theatre, we have Discount Group Tickets at \$27.10 per person. Tickets are sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Email cawa@climberswa.asn.au with your **name** and the **number of tickets** you require. We will arrange for direct debit payment and to pass the tickets to you! CAWA members will meet at the bar before the show.

KNOTS NIGHT

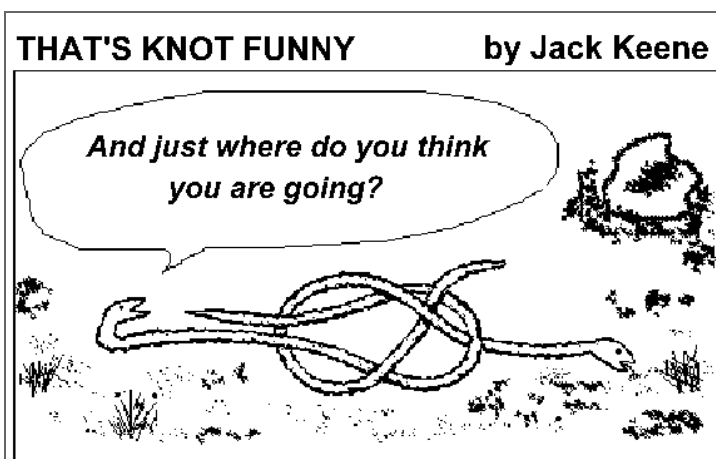
By Anthony Brandis

With an awesome turn out from CAWA members, the Knots night proved to be another popular event. There were 40-odd knot tying devotees from all skills levels.

Special thanks to Anthony, Wally, Jonas, and Mark for being the Lead Knot-Tiers. The boys were kept busy throughout the night, and some might say they were “all tied up” haring the tradecraft of roped climbing.

Groups covered a variety of knots including Figure 8's, bowlines, hitches, and prussicks. Those with digital dexterity took on tying Figure 8's one handed, while a few pairs proceed to tie themselves up with Jonas's knot puzzle.

CAWA thanks Rosie O'Grady's Northbridge for providing the venue for the night.



AT THE MOVIES

By Anthony Brandis

Thanks to the CAWA members who came along to Paul Bolton's house this month for the CAWA Movie night.

Under the stars we watched a series of Camp4Collective films, featuring Jimmy Chin, Alex Honnold, Yugi Hirayama as well as a variety of others taking on epic journeys to far reaching climbing spaces.

The feature of the night was the award winning adventure story of The Asgard Project. An epic journey to Baffin Island in Northern Canada and inside the Arctic Circle. Leo Houlding, and Stanley Leary, proposed to wing suit off the top of Asgard, after making their best free climb attempt up the face of the mountain. A mean feat to further challenge these seasoned climbers.

With the assistance of Carlos Suarez, Ian Buton, Jason Pickles, and Alastair Lee they achieve their objective after some 12-14 days on the wall, and a lot resilience to the exposure of the arctic climate.

A thoroughly recommended watch for those who missed it, or for those who want to purchase a copy checkout the Asgard Project's website.

Thanks to all of you who made the trip to Vic Park to enjoy the movies, who knows maybe we will do the next CAWA Movie Night in a quarry...

CAWA's WA CLIMBING COMPETITION (SERIES 2012)

The WA Sport Climbing Championships and Bouldering Bash are making a return in 2012. With the assistance of Rockface and City Summit, CAWA will be organising a series of lead climbing and bouldering competitions suitable for all levels of climbers.

The committee is very excited about re-introducing this series of events and are working hard to pull it all together. We hope it will be a success, so that we can continue to hold this in future years. Help us make it happen!

Competition entries will become available in the coming months, with the first Boulder Pump-Fest being held in June - so get training now!!!! Whilst exact dates and locations are yet to be set, the following dates should be noted:

BOULDERING COMPETITION

A Pump-Fest not to be missed, challenge yourself to staying on course and staying on the wall. The series will run with two boulder competitions:

JUNE 2012	BOULDERING HEAT #1
JULY 2012	BOULDERING HEAT #2 + FINALS



LEAD CLIMBING COMPETITION

Puzzling challenges will be designed to test all skill levels. How far will you make it up the wall? The competition will run with two lead climbing competitions:

AUGUST 2012	LEAD CLIMB HEAT #1
SEPTEMBER 2012	LEAD CLIMB HEAT #2 + FINALS

COMPETITION FORMAT

As the CAWA committee is still designing and finalising competition details, the competition format, competition rules, dates / times / locations of each event will be announced at a later date.

Keep - Watching - This - Space!

Updates will be provided in the next Western Climber and also posted on the CAWA Website.

LOOKING FOR SPONSORS!!!

CAWA are looking for Sponsors for the competition to contribute to Prizes for the Events. If you are able to assist, please contact the following people for details:

Anthony Brandis (anthonyb@climberswa.asn.au); or
Trevor Peter (trevorp@climberswa.asn.au)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The CAWA committee would also appreciate a little extra assistance during the competition days. If you are able to volunteer, please e-mail Anthony with your details. Once the dates, times and locations are finalised, Anthony will be generating a roster for volunteers and contact you to check your availability.

WHAT TO DO NEXT???

Start training!!! Get those arms strong, get those fingers crimped and those legs ready to dino :)

The competition will be designed for all ages and all skill levels. When training, focus on improving your own abilities and compete to challenge yourself.

Keep checking back on the CAWA website for updates.

And even if you choose not to compete—come down and support the WA climbing community. Bring your friends and family—to cheer on your favourite WA Climbing Icon!

ALL ABOUT THE RACK

TRANSITIONING TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Stuck climbing in the indoor gyms because you're not sure how to transition to the great outdoors? Heading outdoors is more fun and challenging – there are no colour coded holds to tell you where to go next. As with everything, be smart about your own safety. I have on many occasions, have had to bail climbers who are on their first time outdoors—because they were simply not prepared (knowledge, equipment or support) to head outdoors. Take heed to the tips here and you're ready to start exploring and extend your climbing skills to the outdoor arena, where the challenges are endless.

KNOWLEDGE IS KEY

Knowledge is the key to most things, as well as climbing. The first thing to prepare yourself for heading outdoors is a climbing guide of the area you are headed to. These provide crucial information such as access, conditions, topography, routes, equipment requirement and safety considerations. Read the guide before you know and make sure you understand the content. As a first time climber, it is not likely that you will be climbing a new route or exploring a new area (even climbers that have lots of experience usually leave route finding to the professionals!!!) - so kit up with a good guidebook!

FIND A FRIEND

Your first time outdoors should be with someone that has experience with outdoor climbing. It could be with a group trip like CAWA, or you can use the CAWA or ODC forums to find a climbing buddy. That experience could be life-saving, as incorrect procedures, gear or use of the gear—can lead to fatalities. I have on many occasions, stopped unsafe practices of first-timers that could have had very negative consequences.

GEAR UP!!!

A common question we're always asked is what gear do we need to climb outdoors? If you're heading out with someone with experience and gear, as a minimum you should have your own helmet, harness, rock climbing shoes (you won't have much fun with sneakers) and belay device with a locking karabiner. A chalk bag and chalk may be useful if you get sweaty hands.

For lead sport climbing, in your group, you will need a dynamic rope, bolt plates (only in WA), a set of quick draws, a personal anchor system, some locking karabiners and some slings.

If you are planning to set-up top rope anchors, plan for more locking karabiners, slings and consider investing in a static rope. For abseiling and general safety, throw a prussic or two in your bag—small, light but handy!!!

In the coming issues of Western Climber, we will feature tips for basic gear selection; so watch this space!

PLAY AT HOME

So you've just bought all this nice shiny kit.... Play with it at home before you head out, make sure you know how to use it correctly. This includes knowing how to fit your harness, tie in to your harness, use the belay device and where to attach is onto your harness.

ASK YOURSELF...

If you're top-roping, does someone in your group know how to correctly set up top rope anchors, and have the right equipment to do this? If you're sport climbing, does someone in your group know how to lead climb and have the right equipment for this? Does someone in your group know how to clean anchors, safely remove the equipment and lower off? I may be stating the obvious to some, but I and many other experience climbers have witnessed numerous occasions where the answers to one (or more) of the questions above—is a clear no.

BE PREPARED

Yes the scouts code applies to rock climbing as well. The more prepared you are, the less likely you are to get into trouble. Know your equipment, know your procedures and know your buddies.

And above all—be prepared to have fun. Reaching to the top of your first outdoor climb is the best feeling in the world. Hanging at the anchors, taking in a birds-eye view of your surrounds and appreciating the achievement you have made—priceless. Be warned... You will get addicted and start to seek out new places, harder grades, bigger walls and well—the opportunities are endless!



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/

BOYA QUARRY

Posted by: Richard

A Small Deviancy, East Bay. This is not a new climb, it is only a link between existing climbs.

Start on Infinite Justice (18). At the 4th bolt, traverse right just above the level of the roof to a bolt 1m—2m above the middle of the roof. From there, 2 more bolts to top-out just to the right of IJ's finish. The traverse is thoughtful, especially if you have short legs.

It's not a sports clip-up. A long sling is necessary on the bolt above the roof, to reduce rope-drag and to protect the traverse for the second. Also take a nut—not to place, there is a fat bolt that accepts no bolt-plate. There was a discussion regarding the big blocks just below the top, as to whether they are sound or held in by mud—seemed OK to me.

MINI-GUIDES

Moses Rocks

Thanks to Krish Seewraj, there is a new mini-guide to Moses Rocks (January 2012) available from the CAWA website.

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Ski Jackets, Womens, Size 8 (XS)

- * Jacket 1: Columbia with removable inner fleece layer. Pink jacket, used but in good condition. Asking \$50.
- * Jacket 2: Rip Curl with fixed inner layer. Purple jacket. Used only once, in good condition. Asking \$150.

E-mail: allison_low@yahoo.com.au for photos / more details and/or to arrange to view.

CAWA members can place free classifieds. Gear for sale, climbing partners, lost gear, lost partners(?)

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

ADVERTISE IN THE WESTERN CLIMBER

THIS SPACE COULD CONTAIN YOUR ADVERTISEMENT

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

Commercial Advertising Rates

(for full year, four issues)

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

Benefits to Commercial Advertisers:

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

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

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