



EDITION #12 JAN-APRIL 2013

western

climber



CAWA TRIP TO
WILYABRUP

PAGE20



INTERVIEW:
LOGAN BARBER

PAGE30



2013 PHOTO COMP

PAGE42



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Climbing is an inherently dangerous activity. Please give careful consideration and seek expert training before attempting any climbing activities. Undertaking them without proper training, experience, skill, regard to safety, and equipment could result in serious injury or death.

Material included here is intended as a source of information only and has not necessarily been tested. No endorsement is implied by provision of this information. It is your responsibility to ensure that this information is used only after appropriate professional instruction.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

EDITORS: Allison Low/Mandy Bowler EMAIL: editor@climberswa.asn.au

Welcome to the first edition of WC in 2013!

Welcome to 2013 fellow climbers and Western Climber readers!

We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer filled with climbing and added a few more ticks under their harnesses.

We welcome a new editor to the Western Climber (say "Hi Mandy!!") as Kate takes on other committee duties. Mandy (thankfully) has artistic flair and is a welcome addition to the CAWA family.

Do keep sending in

your photos, articles and stories - we've had great feedback from the community who love the variety from different writers, different trips and new faces in the magazine.

This year, CAWA members will receive a printed yearbook filled

with your favourite stories and photographs from submissions to the Western Climber. It's our thank you for your continued support and membership.

We had a fantastic 2012 and look forward to sending more stories to our readers in 2013!



CAWA committee

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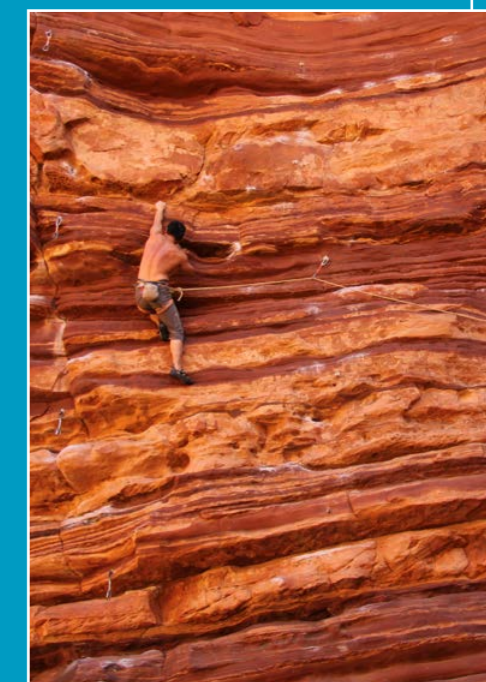
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western climber

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COVER PHOTO:

Rodney Tan on 'Looking at the Bears' (27) at The Promenade, Kalbarri

PHOTO BY BRIAN TAN

CAWA WEBSITE!

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



CAWA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A warm welcome to all CAWA members in this first edition of the Western Climber for 2013. A special welcome to all our new members who have recently joined individually or as a family. CAWA members are welcome to contact the Committee or post any queries on the CAWA web forum if you need any guidance or assistance. Also, thank you to our returning members, it's great to see you all back again.

This year has already kicked off with a busy start. We held our Annual General Meeting on February 27th at the Woolnough Lecture Theatre, UWA. It was a really positive evening with a great turn out. The keynote speaker for the evening was Rick Allen, who described how you can get caught out without a lighter on the top of Nanga Parbat. It's a long way down without being able to make water...

The annual CAWA Photographic Competition had the judges struggling to decide on the results, due to the high quality of the photographs and amazing images captured. We also introduced the new Committee for 2013 and I would like to add CAWA's thanks and welcome to the new joining Committee Members.

The early March trip to Willy's turned out to be a huge CAWA bash. More than 20 climbers turned up, and it was almost "take a ticket" at the favourite routes. Thanks to Mark Kleinman for coordinating that one.

I must acknowledge my appreciation to Kate Swain who stepped into the Vice President role in December 2012 through to late February 2013 whilst I had to have some unexpected, and distracting surgery. Kate has done an amazing job and we are sorry that she has been unable to take on the CAWA President's role in 2013. However, even though she has less time to officiate due to the pressures of work and competing sports, Kate has agreed to stay on the 2013 Committee in the Access Officer role. It's a very important position which needs a high level of personal contact, relationship building skills and diplomacy, which Kate has in abundance.

I'd also like to thank Anthony Brandis who has stepped into the Vice President role for this year and continues to hold the portfolio of Events Coordinator on the Committee. Not only a hard climber, Anthony is making his presence known with efforts to support more climbing competitions this year and other initiatives in the pipeline.

A new Committee position of CAWA Youth Climbing Representative was included for 2013 as the result of Rachel Wheeler's enthusiasm to encourage and support the involvement of more of our younger climbers taking up the sport in Western Australia. CAWA will be developing opportunities and initiatives for youth climbers new to the sport. Please feel free to contact Rachel if you have any queries in this area.

Finally, and with thanks to our regular contributors on the Committee, Kylie West, Mark Kleinman and Trevor Peter, we welcome Mandy Bowler, who comes in as one of our Western Climber editors along with Ally Low, and Jonas Hollingworth who has provided significant guidance for our knots nights, rescue days and demonstrations of specialist climbing skills. Also joining the Committee are Neil Humphries and Blair Cafar as Ordinary Members...nothing ordinary about them! Wait till the recent Peak Charles climbing trip report comes out :)

So we have another full year ahead. The climbing trips are loaded into the CAWA calendar, the events are being developed, the films shows are coming up, the gym crashes are fixed, the social events are being created, relationships with the DEC are progressing well, special events are being discussed, competitions are being worked up, and all we don't have control over is the weather.

So again, welcome all to another year of climbing with the Climbers Association of Western Australia.

Tony Brebner
CAWA President.



GET INVOLVED WITH CAWA

We are always looking for volunteers and helping hands. Please contact cawa@climberswa.asn.au if you would like to get involved and contribute to the WA climbing community.



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

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.

You can also email the editor of the Western Climber as an alternative to posting on the forum at editor@climberswa.asn.au

Western Climber

The Climbers Association of Western Australia was formed in 1968 and incorporated in August 1979. CAWA's purpose is to promote and develop climbing, especially in WA, and to promote and protect the interests of climbers in WA.

The management of CAWA is conducted by a committee. Any matters that should be brought to the attention of the committee should be addressed to the CAWA Secretary.

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

Western Climber is the magazine of CAWA and relies on contributions from its members. All submissions are welcome! If you have any photographs or articles you would like to submit to the Western Climber, please send them with full details to editor@climberswa.asn.au.

For the next issue of Western Climber, all submissions must be made by 31st May 2013. We welcome all climbing related material - trip reports, new routes, technical, safety, equipment, book/DVD reviews, crag information and climbing gossip. We love photos of locations around the world as well as WA..and most of all, people having fun climbing!



DEC ACCESS TO LUCKY BAY

CAWA ACCESS/DEVELOPMENT OFFICER: Kate Swain EMAIL: cawa@climberswa.asn.au

CAPE LE GRAND NATIONAL PARK

Last year climbing at Lucky Bay was under review by DEC, particularly due to the large amount of bolts that had been placed at Kangaroo Rock. Some concerns were raised by the local ranger and these were then escalated to the District and Regional Managers at Esperance and Albany.

Some negotiations were undertaken by CAWA's Access and Development officer with DEC. These negotiations continue to occur. Conditional access has been granted, as long as no new bolting is undertaken until further discussions can be had, and some other requests as outlined below. The lists of requests was reasonable and the following applies (CAWA's comments in blue):

- No new bolts to be introduced
- Any group climbing activity/event (commercial or not) requires the necessary permits and indemnities
- Where possible, indemnities to be completed (a non-commercial application form) and emailed to the Parks and Visitors Manager and DEC District Manager for approval prior to the trip. *In CAWA's opinion, this will be difficult to implement, and is not exactly practical. CAWA have suggested that a better approach would be to have a DEC sign placed somewhere in the near vicinity that generally advises of the risks in the area and states whatever disclaimers DEC wish to publish, to warn people who continue into the area. Further discussion is still required*
- Make contact with Cameron Hennessy, Senior Ranger, prior to and upon arrival (0427 766 067)
- Plant disease, weeds and dieback management protocols to be observed
- No removal or disturbance of vegetation to be carried out
- Stick to defined paths or bare rock area when accessing climbing sites
- Be aware of risks to other visitors and be conscious of any conflict of use
- Heritage issues to be considered (indigenous and non-indigenous), some sites may be closed for heritage reasons. *Kangaroo Rock has not been identified to CAWA as a closed site.*
- CAWA to inform its members of climbing arrangements

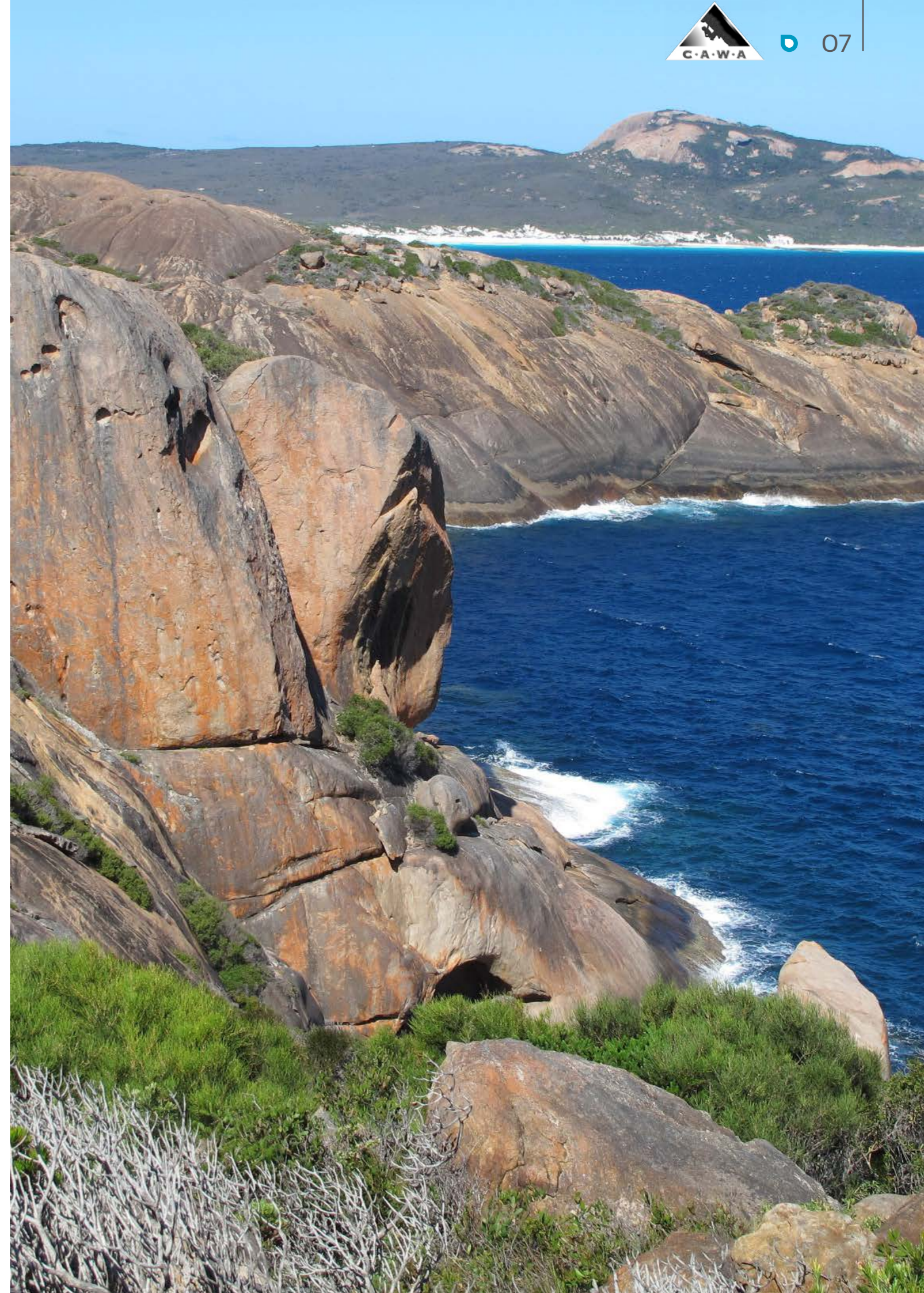
Please note that the indemnity form is called a non-commercial application and can be obtained by CAWA by emailing cawa@climberswa.asn.au or DEC by emailing Ian.Hughes@dec.wa.gov.au.

The non-commercial application form will be filled in for all CAWA organised activities. For climbing on an individual basis, the form has been requested to be still filled in and sent in for approval, however the process is still under assessment.

These requests are no more onerous than what most of us do anyway, and respecting local significant heritage sites, and being mindful of existing vegetation is considerate and logical. The mini-guide is back up on the website with the additional note of the changes.

PLEASE ALSO NOTE, NO BOLTING OR CLIMBING IS TO OCCUR AT FRENCHMAN'S CAP.

CAWA are continuing to work towards an agreed process for climbing at Lucky Bay, and if you have any questions, please contact us at cawa@climberswa.asn.au



Anthony Brandis gives us the scoop on West Cape Howe

THE GREAT SOUTHERN

REPORTER: Anthony Brandis EMAIL: anthonyb@climberswa.asn.au PHOTOS: Mandy Bowler and Anthony Brandis



CHRISTMAS CLIMB...SUMMER SWING IN ALBANY, WA

Wow has that happened already...! I wait all year to get back on the solid granite that is West Cape Howe, and am always saddened when I have to leave it (or any other great climbing for that matter).

We had a great time...21 climbers stayed at the Upper Kalgan, orchard inspired campgrounds. Thanks once again to the Calais family: thanks Phil, thanks Derek!

It's always novel when you get to a campground where you need to weed-whack your own site; 4 foot blades of grass, cut down to size with the whipper snipper. But it was sweetened by the prospects of ripe fruits from the tree!!! ... and the entertainment of Phil trying to rip start a lawnmower that looked more like an antique, which to his credit did fire on a couple of occasions.

After the obligatory tasks of getting the grass down to ground-level and the water pump ready for the shower and toilet (which looks like it'll flatten the toilet soon!), most climbers made their arrival in

the afternoon.

After choosing appropriately suitable sites for the next 6-7 days, and testing the 'open-air' hot water showers (how good was that shower...!), everyone seemed keen to get on the granite as well.

Most days this year were spent making the daily trip out to the Cape, and with only one 4WD making the drive, seats on the ride in were held in high regard.

This year I saw the most climbers I've ever seen at West Cape Howe, and like most of you have noticed on some of the recent trips, crag popularity is growing every year.

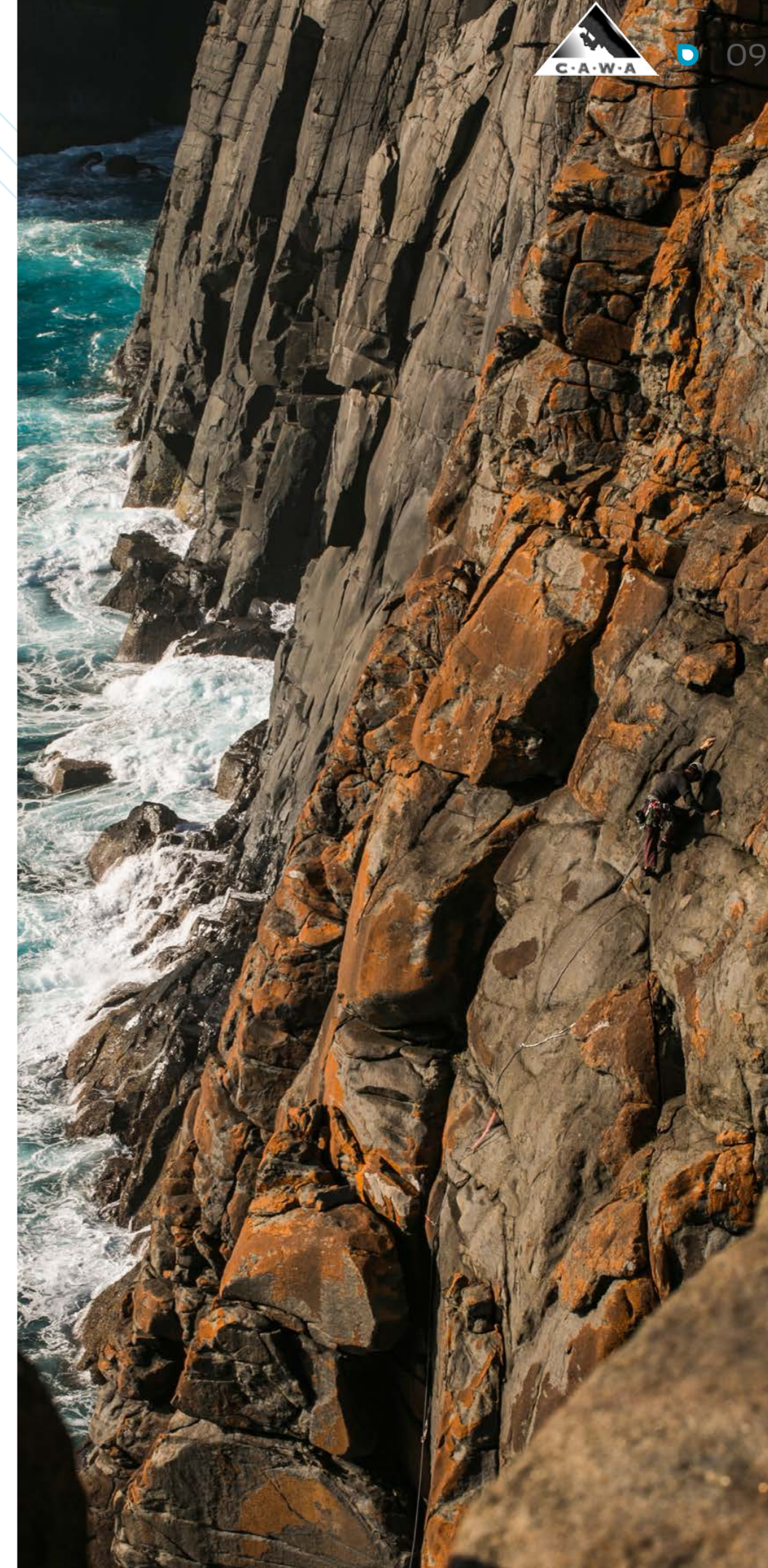
The climbing centred around the South Coast's usual faves, and this years notable epics include Ange's ascents on Tombstone (20), and in subsequent days battling a second ascent with sea-spray on the splitter-crack; Ange & Blair forming a personal climbing coaching team on the Vulture Street wall, while others completed the WCH classic Vulture Street (17). Dena made an ascent of Bluff Knoll in 43 degree heat, while the rest of us braved the heat on the rock.

One day was spent at Peak Head, which probably saw a lower percentage of climbing this year... Phil & Richard climbing Farewell to Arms (17), taking on the crux march flies, and spotting a frog in a crack some 150m in the air. Ange & Blair went to On the Lee Side (16). Jordan, Mike, Steve and occasionally Jordan's partner Renée (who also hiked the Stirrings), managed to see a number of the south coast hotspots. The boys mainly caused their own antics climbing around the ocean side of a block at the Gap, trying to out-climb the approaching tide, and spending some time trying to claim some booty of a double sling jammed around a chockstone at WCH only to be disturbed by a resident snake.

WEST CAPE HOWE

Jonas Hollingworth leads Tombstone (20) at West Cape Howe

"THIS YEAR I SAW THE MOST CLIMBERS I'VE EVER SEEN AT WEST CAPE HOWE...CRAG POPULARITY IS GROWING EVERY YEAR"



CAWA members at the top of the Vulture St Wall, Michael Fuller and Caitlin O'Neill ready to take on Friendless (15), Jonas Hollingworth and Nadia Mertens getting ready to rap down, Nadia seconding Tombstone (20)

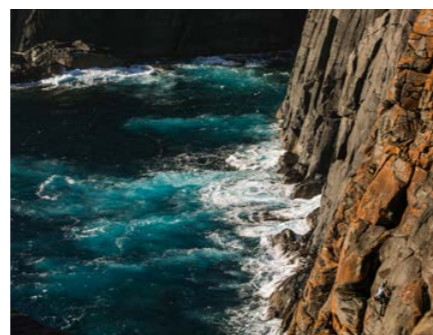
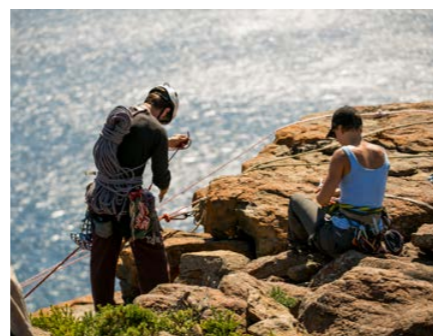


The New Year's Eve entertainment was sorted in town. After climbing for the day each climber went through the delicate process of de-gearing, and scrubbing, before donning some casual finery, and knocking back a cider or an ale. We all took off to Rustlers Steakhouse on the Albany Foreshore. A nice meal, with some fireworks getting us out of our seats briefly to take some pictures. Closer to midnight, the orchard apple-cannon made a brief appearance, or should I say the apple in the cannon made a brief appearance before being turned into apple sauce, jettisoned across the orchard in some weird Cinderella style 'on-the-stroke-of-midnight' tale, with signal flares in tow. After barely making it to midnight without falling asleep, we were keen to hit the hay, so the first day of 2013 could be enjoyed doing what we love: Climbing!

As the following days passed, those who could stay returned to their fave climbing areas, while the rest departed back to the city as their holiday drew to a close.

Personally, after some 4WD troubles, Karen and myself went back to WCH, meeting up with Remi, and got re-acquainted with the climbs on the Pyramid. Remi almost onsighting Flickering Indices (22), while dragging me up it, and inspiring Karen & myself to do Take the Plunge (19) the following day - thoroughly recommend the climbing here, if you don't mind the cracks.

Before signing off on this trip report, I want to mention a picturesque lake that seems to get overlooked at West Cape Howe. Nestled in the valleys of the WCH hillsides is a nice little oasis of Lake William. If you've been there you'll know what I'm talking about, and if you haven't, take a stroll after a day of climbing to swim in a freshwater lake (although tea-coloured due to the neighbouring tea-trees), or just enjoy the scenery in the fading light of the day. It's a great photo opportunity!



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP
The magnificent Cape, Mike Ward on Vulture St (17***), Jordy Illes on Blue Cent (15**), Lake William, The Pyramid, Kate on Carousel (15***).





"the climbers gym"

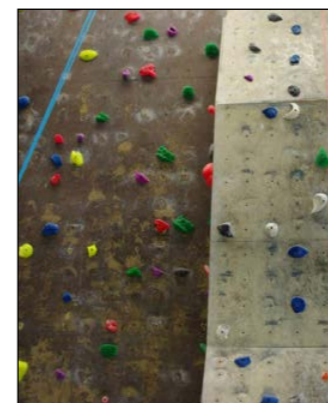
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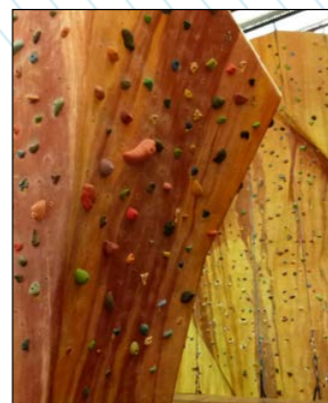
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OFF BELAY

CITY SUMMIT BOULDERING COMPETITION

On Saturday 13th April, City Summit hosted the Perth Bouldering Championship 2013! The competition featured a massive lineup of prizes totalling over \$8000. We congratulate not only the winners, but everyone involved. Comp report coming next issue!

CAWA PEAK CHARLES TRIP

Over the Easter long weekend an intrepid bunch made their way to Peak Charles and we look forward to their trip report and awesome photos in the next issue of the Western Climber!

BOOKING THE QUARRIES

Just a reminder that the phone number to book to climb at Mountain Quarry and Stathams is 9260 6100, which is DEC's Perth Hills District Office. 7 days a week 8am till 4pm.

NEW COSY CORNER BOULDERING MINI-GUIDE by Eric Friis

<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/COSY-CORNER-BOULDERING-MINIGUIDE-rev0.pdf>

CAPE LE GRAND MINI-GUIDE (Updated) by Ross Weiter

<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/Cape-le-Grand-Climbing-Guide.pdf>

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL

Not to be missed is the world tour of the Banff Mountain Film Festival! Coming up in May, look out for tix through CAWA and come along and join us all on the night. Always inspirational and exciting! To see the trailer for 2013, check this out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-gu3SYqSNY&noredirect=1>

NEW ROUTES

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

<http://climberswa.asn.au/forum/first-ascents/>

Usurper (17) 25m Mountain Quarry.

Starts as for Finger Licking Awful, crosses Gunga Kim and finishes on Rage lower-offs. Climb FLA to the top of the crack. On the face above are two GIMB bolts. Climb slightly right of the bolts. Above the second bolt step left into a shallow corner above a small bush. Climb 4m up the corner to where it meets the intersection of a horizontal rail on the left and an arête on the right. Move left along the hand-rail to join Rage. Optional clip with long sling on Rage bolt, or climb bravely up over easy ground to Rage lower-offs.

FA: 17/2/13 T Martens, P Calais, P Thomas, and various others.

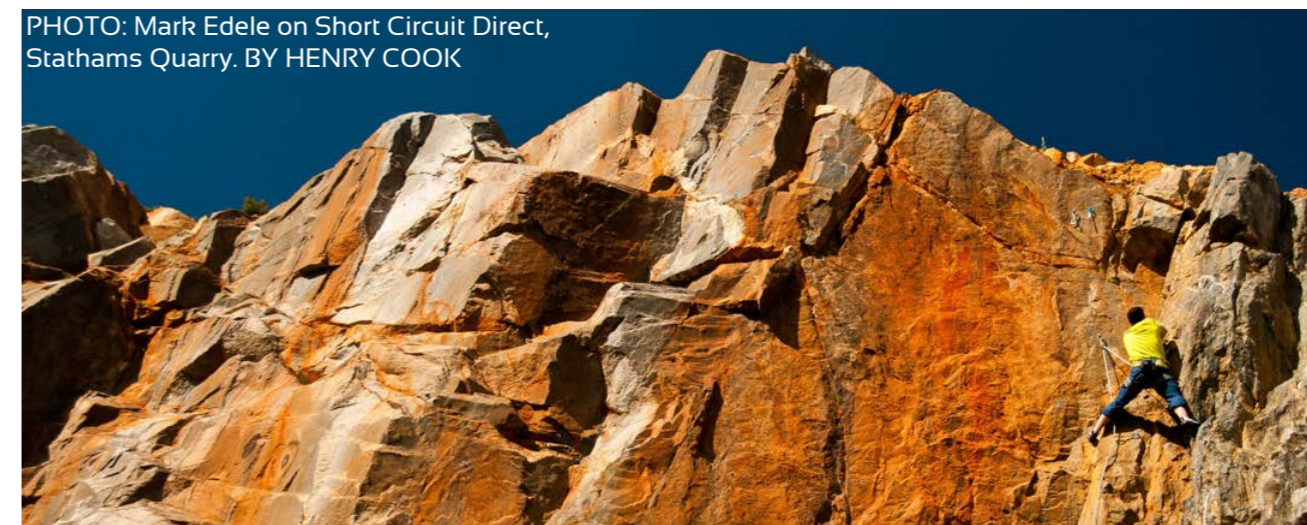
Dreadnought (20) 40m West Cape Howe.

5 bolts, need micro to number 2 cams

Abseil from the P bolts at the top of Dark Arts (adjacent to the gully forming the Vulture Street wall). The climb starts about 15m to the right of Vulture Street and about 10m above on a terrace in the gully (to the left of Dark Arts). The start is a shallow groove/crack that is between Vampire Street and the gully and heads straight up the wall to the blunt nose/arête on steep fantastic rock.

FA: December 2012 Ronald Master, Mike Taylor

PHOTO: Mark Edele on Short Circuit Direct, Stathams Quarry. BY HENRY COOK



CLIMBING THE PIZ BADILE

REPORTER: Neil Gledhill PHOTOS: Neil Gledhill and Kate Swain



It was 10:30 in the morning and we were at the top of the Piz Badile (3305m) feeling rather pleased with ourselves. It was the 2nd day of our trip to Europe and already we had climbed the prime mountain objective of the trip.

48 hours before we had been in Perth at 20m above sea level. 12 hours flying took us to Dubai, where we wandered around like labotomized sheep. Not finding the Dubai airport experience all that attractive, we sulked in a corner in a sulk-off with other listless travellers. As we queued for the final boarding onto the flight to Milan, our post lobotomy sheep impersonation annoyed the ground staff so much they bizarrely upgraded us to business class. Well, I didn't waste a moment and I had gulped down 3 glasses of free champagne before the hot towels even came out. I was determined to maximise the value of my good fortune. Kate on the other hand, curled up to nap and raised the central partition to limit the amount of spilled champagne that was dampening her sky bed. Now I had to do the drinking for two. The horror! Arriving in Milan I felt a little under the weather. Dehydration, champagne, jet lag, Italian logistics and too many flatscreen movies combined to make me feel a little rough. We managed to arrange a free limo transfer to the hotel by waving our business class tickets around looking grumpy in a celebrity endorsed sort of way.

The next day we caffined up, grabbed the rental Fiat and went in search of George Clooney along the coast of lake Como. Finding no celeb-

rities we recognised we continued into southern Switzerland. Our plan was to take it easy for a few days, get up into the mountains somewhere easy, acclimatise and get a few beers and pitches under our belts before taking on the Piz Badile. However... the weather looked too good... the mountains too awesome... so we stashed the car and hiked up to the hut ready to do the Piz Badile the next day.

At 4am the next morning I could still feel the champagne and flying. My 4am Swiss/French/German/Italian was non-existent. However, the Sasc Fura hut lady spoke better English than I did and I bumbled my way through negotiations for breakfast with passable Australian. We were off by 4:30am up the steep approach to the base of the Piz Badile. We started hiking at 1900m and stopped at the base of the climb at 2700m at 6:00am. We were a little puffed. It was still dark. We snooped around watching a few other parties and looking for the start of our planned route, "Another Day in Paradise". In the early morning gloom we were the only ones contemplating the 100m abseil down to the start of our route, on a hanging ledge 200m above a glacier. After a brief vote with a 100% majority in favour, we abandoned our route for the easier and more popular "North Ridge" (5a+). That was probably the best decision of our trip as we were pretty underdone from flying and "Another Day in Paradise" has 20+ pitches, and requires cranking of consistent 6a-6b (with a crux of 7a) at 3000m. Possibly... we may not have had quite as much fun on that route as the easier one.

On the border of Switzerland and Italy, the Piz Badile is a granite spire rising from the Bregaglia Valley.

"THE WEATHER LOOKED TOO GOOD, THE MOUNTAINS TOO AWESOME... SO WE STASHED THE CAR AND HIKED UP TO THE HUT READY TO DO THE PIZ BADILE THE NEXT DAY"

FEEL THE SERENITY...

The North Ridge seen from the Sciora Hut across the Valley, INSET: Kate climbs some slippery slabs.



The guidebook describes it as "One of the truly great climbs of all time. The route follows a long and phenomenal line in a wonderful position and offers an unforgettable ascent". Being Europe, summer, nice weather and one of the worlds truly great climbs, we were not on our own. Now Kate and I are not newcomers to the world of Euro multipitch climbing. It is a dog eat dog world and you either put on your dog hat and eat a few dogs or wobble upward acting like some sort of slow moving obstacle. We have a well developed eye for spotting small dogs we like to eat so before they even had a chance to scratch their behinds we had overtaken a bunch as we simul-climbed. I was wearing my approach shoes and Kate her pointy rock shoes. This was somewhat of a school boy error on my behalf. Kate is a few steps up the talent tree ahead of me and I had handicapped myself by not putting on my rock shoes. Mid way up a bulge that felt like grade 17 I decided simul-climbing was over for now and I wanted a belay. That slowed us down and some of the small dogs started sniffing my crotch. Soon enough we were back at it and swung leads, simul-climbed and generally had a great time blitzkrieging up the north ridge.

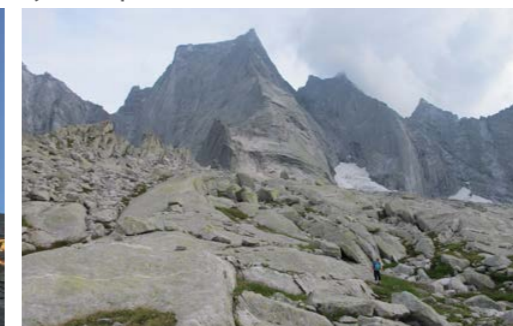
We learnt long ago on climbs like this that if you are a first time tourist who doesn't know the route, don't go in front! The north ridge is a ridge so you would think that route finding would be easy enough, but it is a freaking massive ridge, with a few cunning side-steps and sneaky moves to keep the grade down and the speed up. Hence being a little down in the queue system allows one to see where the locals go,

see where the locals belay and see where the locals pee.

Pitch after pitch of super granite ridge rolled under our fingers and toes and we climbed higher. The climbing was mostly slabby with a few bolts supplemented by nuts or whatever you had on your rack. There was the odd steep crack, delicate traverse and polished slab to add class and variety. Belay station logistics went pretty well all things considered and I only soured international relationships a little when I tried some cheeky French to keep people moving. My attempt at French humour resulted in a woman frowning and trying to kick off my helmet. It was not as well received by the nice French lady as it was by a bunch of smelly Germans in France the year before.... maybe there is a lesson there somewhere.

Anyway, that is all part of the game on these sorts of routes. They are simply massive and there would have been 50 other people spread out over 100's of metres that day. So there was plenty of mix and match languages at belays from all across Europe. Finding the grade relatively plaisir we pushed out long 60m pitches and then often went into simul-climbing mode until the leader ran low on gear or got to a difficult bit. This feeling of climbing fast and free was simply brilliant as the exposure rose with the altitude as we neared the summit. Bang on 10:30am we reached the top, a pleasant 4 hours and 700m ish of granite ridge below. We snacked in the sun and rested our feet. Views on all sides were pretty amazing. Granite peaks and spires everywhere. We oogled our objectives for the next few weeks and they all looked pretty fine!

When it came time to descend there were two options. A handful of abseils, some scree surfing and a ciao ciao could take you down into Italy for the night in one of their huts. From there, to get back into Switzerland it was a day-ish hike back through a pass to the Swiss side. We had decided to take option 2: rap back down the route. We had climbed 30ish pitches, so we would need to do 30ish abseils (2 x 60m ropes). Back in Perth we never thought to calculate or even think how long this would take. Upon reaching the summit my mind was already sitting back at the hut drinking cold, cheap (relative to Perth) hut beer and basking in the alpine glow of our ascent. However, the old mind quickly realised things were not going to plan when we started abseiling. It was slow going. There were plenty of others climbing up that we had to be aware of, and sometimes the abseil route took us off the side of the ridge into rather excitingly steep and exposed territory. 5 abseils down, 25 to go. 10 down 20 to go.... eeeek it was taking ages. We were both tired, grumpy, thirsty and nervous about stuck ropes. 5 hours later (yes!!! longer than the climb!!!) we reached the bottom. Another hour hiking back to the hut and all was soon forgotten with a nice hot hut dinner, great beer and an unbelievably cheap hot mountain shower!



THE PIZ BADILE CHEAT SHEET!

WHERE: The Piz Badile is on the border of southern Switzerland and northern Italy. Most people access it via the Bregaglia Valley in Switzerland. One side of the Bregaglia is made up of properly massive granite peaks and spires of which the Piz Badile is one.

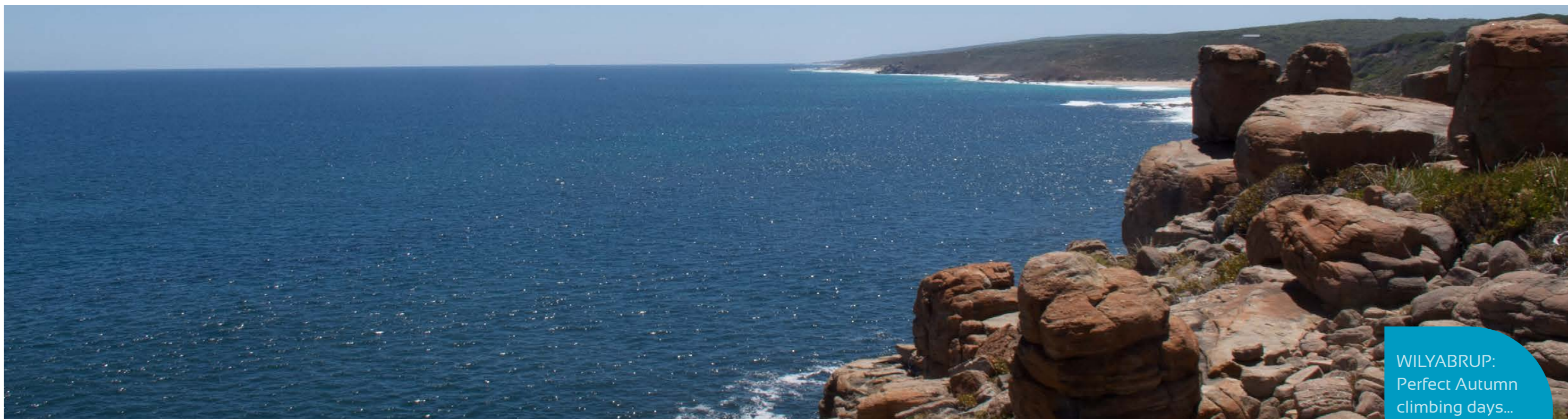
GUIDEBOOK: Bregaglia Sciora Badile is an online downloadable PDF done by Chris Mellor. It is the most up to date English guide and is the best place to start. It covers lots of other way cool stuff in the same area.

TIME TO GO: Summer - July/August is your best bet.

GEAR: Light, skinny, expensive rope(s). Light weight draws and long slings. Take a 3/4 rack at the most and nothing over #2 camalot. Comfy shoes!

TACTICS: Go there fit, you will enjoy it more. If you have the time to walk back from the Italian side (or do some climbing over there) it looked like a pretty good option. Take light weight gear and not too much. It will be busy. Take it easy and have fun with the experience.

WHAT ELSE: The Bregaglia is full of alpine granite, some longer than the Piz Badile and some shorter. It offers superb, high quality granite multipitch climbing of all grades. The climbing is almost always based out of huts which provide breakfast, dinner, snacks and beer. They are well priced compared to Perth entertainment options.



WILYABRUP:
Perfect Autumn
climbing days...

BIG WILLIES

REPORTER: Mark Kleinman EMAIL: markk@climberswa.asn.au PHOTOS BY: Mark Kleinman

MARK KLEINMAN VISITS OUR REGULAR HAUNT, WILYABRUP, WITH THE CAWA CREW Wilyabrup is located nearly 3 hours south of Perth, on the coast between Yallingup and Margaret River.

Well what can I say, interest in attending this March CAWA Wilyabrup trip was good and it only got better. At the end we were slightly over booked, but as expected some people did not attend and that was made up by extras who did. Overall I would have to borrow some famous words and say "I love it when a plan comes together."

I arrived on Friday afternoon and the camp site was empty. I promptly put up the CAWA banner and made myself comfortable. By about 6pm we had a few more people turn up: Lorin and Kate, Angela and Dena, Steve and Sean. After tents were erected and made comfortable we all sat down and relaxed with a beer. The excitement was starting to build. The conversation varied from who has been here before and what they wanted to do, to what constitutes a big motorbike.

Dinner was eaten by us in varying forms. For

some it seemed to be an endless supply of chips. I myself had a marinated steak which I cooked in the camp kitchen which was quite well appointed. My only gripe was the fridge which was full. So full that people were putting their bag on the shelf and pushing really hard to make it fit. I decided to keep buying bags of ice.

After dinner we all sat down and continued chatting by the light of our improvised "campfire" kindly provided by Ange (Thanks Ange!!!). Candles - what a brilliant idea! A flame, no matter what size, still has a hypnotic effect on you.

Being the trip organizer I had a list of expected arrivals and it was great to see that everyone had been to Willys before which made my life easier. With so many experienced people coming down, there was very little for me apart from say hello to everyone. Sweet!

All the time cars and people were still arriving so there was a steady stream of noise. We all crashed at around 9:45pm dreaming of climbing early.

Saturday! Despite the weather guy predicting rain, none came, so we had a nice dry night. Someone who shall remain nameless decided that 5am was a good time to wake up and sagely set their alarm. Needless to say, since it was still pitch black outside it was silenced much to everyone else's delight.

We at CAWA go out of our way to make everyone feel at home.. it took some work but I managed to arrange a traditional Australian wakeup call for everyone - kookaburras laughing in a tree above us at 5:30. Now how can anyone top that? On my early morning wanderings I overheard someone snoring and it honestly sounded like

someone was tearing a piece of card board. Scary stuff! Funnily enough I did not hear it on Sunday morning. I can only assume that his or her family made alternative arrangements for the snorer.

After a rushed breakfast, climbers began making arrangements to leave for the crag. Lorin and Kate were off like a rocket and all I saw was dust rising from their wheels as Kate hooned through the car park (I am telling porkies, she did not really hoon but it did sound good).

The Wilyabrup sea cliffs was alive with climbers. Word had reached us that there was the possibility of several commercial climbing groups being out which could have made for an interesting day for all of us, having to put up with some extreme abseiling but thankfully it was not to be. The weather at the cliffs



"THE WEATHER AT THE CLIFFS WAS GLORIOUS...DOLPHINS WERE JUMPING IN THE SURF. THE CLIMBING WAS BRILLIANT AND THE COMPANY WAS EXCELLENT"



was glorious, there were dolphins jumping in the surf, and the breeze was delightful. The climbing was brilliant and the company was excellent. Watching other people climb it made me think that a picnic hamper would not have gone astray.

By about 1pm the sun had moved and had started making the whole cliff face rather hot. The wise (not wimpy) of us decided that it was nicer elsewhere and headed back to the campsite. Some intrepid climbers stopped at the Cheeky Monkey Brewery and Cidery for a drink to rehydrate themselves. It is a long drive back to camp. Back at the caravan park, the two group sites allocated to CAWA were starting to fill with tents and swags. The sites are quite large and there was plenty of space to be had. A few interesting activities also took place. Olly had arrived and has taken climbing to a whole new level, in the photo to the right, you can clearly see proof that he has started teaching the fine art of levitation.

After a little bit of a cool down and afternoon break, some people headed to the beach while some slack-lined around. For dinner, many headed to the iconic Margaret River Settlers Tavern for dinner. The food there is pretty good and does surprise the uninitiated. You can be sure that everyone slept well.

DAY 2

Sunday started better than Saturday; the snoring person I heard yesterday was silent and there was no kookaburra wakeup call either. The early risers met in the camp kitchen and enjoyed the morning while breakfast was swiftly consumed.

Today groups went in different directions with one group confirming its intention to head out to Bobs Hollow, the majority (I believe) headed to Wilyabrup for a second dose. I gave a lift to Jacob, the youngest CAWA member on this trip. He climbs like a natural

and I look forward to watching him grow better and better.

The weather was glorious again so it was a hard choice: either go climbing or just sit back and enjoy the beautiful surf. Climbing won.

Hazel, another one of our young CAWA members had a go at trad leading on one of the easier routes at Willys, her dad courageously belaying. There were some unusual things going on at Willys. I heard rumours of skinny dipping yesterday and today I found a bikini drying on a rock and when I asked who owned it, there was a fair bit of finger pointing going on amongst the guys.

Ange also pointed out one of the most interesting sights I had seen yet. Someone had setup their own mini-tarp to belay in shaded comfort. After a bit of investigation it was revealed that Remi was the creative person and I have to applaud his ingenuity. Again the sun swung around and started baking us and the less committed climbers departed. I must admit to being one of those culprits, but then again with an early start and such a glorious climbing environment, I was quite happy to have enjoyed the cream of the climbing weather and headed off.

Back at the camp site there was more relaxing going on and there was actually some studying taking place. I suppose that will happen if you have young CAWA members attending. There was also a mini quiz organized by Mark and Hazel. This afternoon time I joined Dena and Ange and visited the beach. With the water being quite cold, the best way to approach it is to just throw yourself in. After some floating I sat back on the beach to be amused by a young boy who took to stuffing large amounts of sand down his rashie and then running down the beach with what looked like a large beer belly on him. Very funny stuff.

We were also joined by Remi, Delphine and Brian. They all swam and then we played on the rocks. Brian had taken a keen interest in the local crab life so we all had a look. Now as "responsible adults" we crawled over these rocks with reckless abandon. We were definitely setting a very bad example for all the kids who could see us. I am sure they were busy complaining to their parents.

Returning to the camp site, I freshened up and then took a friend out for a spot of sunset photography. We got down to Gracetown with a few minutes to spare and managed to snag a few shots of the fading sun before it vanished. Overall it was another big day with some very rewarding experiences.

Monday Morning began with the rain gods choosing to remind us that they are the bosses; this meant a steady shower of rain began in the early hours of the morning which I am sure changed everyone's plans. It was going home day for me today and I looked forward to catching up with the wife.

A big thank you to all those who attended!





DENA RAO GIVES US HER TAKE ON THE WILYABRUP TRIP!

I was looking forward to an adventure at West Cape Howe, accompanied by a good dose of being scared witless on run out slab at Gibraltar rock. But the weather forecast suggested I might be in for more excitement than I was looking for. Having previously sampled the delights of accidental electric shock therapy, I wasn't keen to repeat the experience.

Instead, Ange and I joined the crew in Margaret River. Good decision. The weather was beautiful, the company was great and it was the most fun I've had on a climbing trip for ages.

Primed with large amounts of sugar consumed on the drive down, we arrived at the Gracetown Caravan Park ready for action. Armed with hammers, we secured a nice little corner of the sand pit otherwise known as a 'group site'. But I'd forgotten about the ants. They quickly launched an invasion of every available (and unavailable) crack, crevasse and orifice. My toiletries bag, while lacking in any apparent nutrition, seemed to fascinate them. Their effort and enthusiasm was outstanding, rivalled only by Brian's assault on Blondes Have More Fun (22) on Saturday, at Wilyabrup. Determined to disprove this theory, he was not even deterred by the sound of tearing skin on his forearms as he battled the roof crack.

After leading a couple of easy warm ups on Saturday morning, I was keen to tackle some of the juicier routes. Due to both of us being in various states of disrepair, common sense prevailed and we instead chose to top rope the harder stuff. There is an unfortunate snobbery that surrounds the whole leading versus top roping debate. Even though I actually prefer leading these days (much to the surprise of many), top roping can allow you to relax and work on your technique. For me, this is about re-training to climb more 'open handed'. And much

to my surprise, it made climbing Dolphin Smiles (21) a whole lot easier. Fat Chance (20), was another enjoyable outing.

Much like the ants back at camp, the entire Perth climbing community had descended on Wilys and was happily crawling all over the rock. Despite some queues to get on the more popular routes, there was a spirit of cooperation and generosity, with the swarm remaining mostly peaceful. The serenity was disturbed only by the occasional indignant shout when ropes were dropped on unsuspecting heads.

Anyone tired of watching the climbers could turn around and be treated to an enthusiastic display of dolphin surfing that lasted for some hours.

Back at camp it was all about playing musical parking spaces and watching the slacklines spit hapless climbers off into the sand. Fearful of a toddler invasion at movie time, Ange was keen to head out for dinner. With Hamish in tow, we headed to Gnarabar Restaurant and had an excellent meal.

On Sunday, a small group went off to Bob's Hollow and the rest of us headed back to Wilys. It was pretty toasty, so we climbed for half the day and after a lazy lunch, Mark, Ange, Hamish, Remi, Delph, Brian and myself headed down to Cowaramup Beach. In typically mature fashion, we took great delight in rocking the pontoon and pushing each other off it and making wigs out of seaweed. Mark looked particularly fetching in a creation reminiscent of Jon Bon Jovi in his heyday.

A quick trip to the fudge factory was followed by a rendezvous with Peter and Andrea at the Colonial Brewery. It was a great way to finish off a fabulous weekend.



DO BLONDES HAVE MORE FUN?

Brian Tan on the route (22) at Wilyabrup.

PHOTO BY DENA RAO



EVENTS & TRIPS 2013

APRIL 30TH JOONDALUP GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

MAY 7TH KNOTS NIGHT

An interesting and educational night with Jonas, learning the ins and outs of knots and roping.

MORE INFORMATION:
jonash@climberswa.asn.au



MAY 29TH BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FEST

Always inspirational and exciting, come and join other CAWA members to view some amazing adventure films. Tickets available through CAWA.

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

JUNE 1ST-3RD KALBARRI TRIP

Get away from the beginning of Perth winter and head up to sunny Kalbarri with other CAWA members.

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au



JUNE 11TH HANGOUT GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

JUNE 15TH CAWA DINNER

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

JULY 5TH URBAN ASCENT GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

featured event



AUGUST 31 to SEPTEMBER 1

TRIP TO EAGLESTONE ROCK

A great place to go in wintertime, Eaglestone is located about 4 hours drive east of Perth in the wheatbelt. Always a fun trip due to the isolation, amazing scenery and of course, the fun climbs with a good range of grades.

MORE INFORMATION: www.climberswa.asn.au

JULY 24TH CITY SUMMIT GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

AUGUST 7TH MOVIE NIGHT!

Stay tuned for more details in the next issue of Western Climber.

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au



AUGUST 22ND ROCKFACE GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

SEPTEMBER 17TH HANGOUT GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
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OCTOBER 11TH URBAN ASCENT GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

OCTOBER 29TH JOONDALUP GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
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NOVEMBER 21ST ROCKFACE GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

DECEMBER 7TH CAWA CHRISTMAS BBQ

Celebrate the approach of the holiday season with a BBQ with your fellow climbers. Always a relaxing, social afternoon.

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

DECEMBER 10TH HANGOUT GYM CRASH

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au

DECEMBER 27- JAN 2 ALBANY/WEST CAPE HOWE TRIP

A fantastic way to see in the New Year. Climb at West Cape, The Gap, Peak Head and the Blowholes. Amazing climbing, awesome fun.

MORE INFORMATION:
www.climberswa.asn.au



PHOTO CREDITS FROM L TO R:

Brian Tan bouldering at Boulder Rock, PHOTO BY RODNEY TAN;

Robert Zantingh leading unknown route (22) Wellington Dam, PHOTO BY MANDY BOWLER;

Sunset at Eaglestone Rock, PHOTO BY MANDY BOWLER;

Remi and Delphine at sunset, PHOTO BY GESA GRASER,

Brian Tan spotted by David Zeltner at Contos, PHOTO BY RODNEY TAN,

Erin Marshall on Short Circuit Direct (17) Stathams Quarry, PHOTO BY HENRY COOK

Hamish Carrad on Free Willy (18) at Mt Frankland, PHOTO BY ROSS WEITER

featured event



SEPTEMBER 28-30TH

MT FRANKLAND TRIP

Head down with us to the beautiful Walpole area to get some awesome multi pitch slab climbs in. Not to be missed!

MORE INFORMATION: www.climberswa.asn.au

CAWA will endeavour to keep to the planned dates stated here but members should check the website for the most up-to-date calendars as dates may change after publication:

www.climberswa.asn.au

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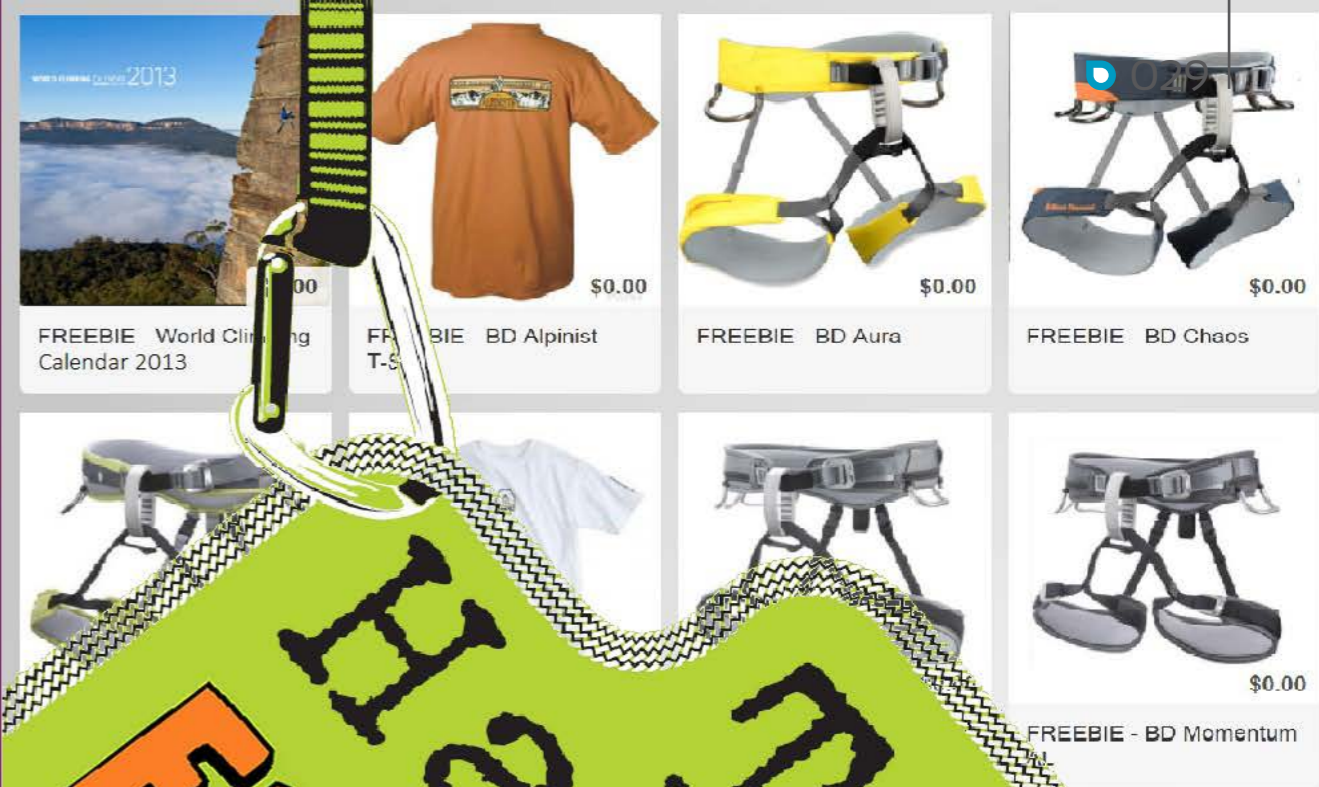


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INTERVIEW: LOGAN BARBER

REPORTER: Kate Swain EMAIL: kates@climberswa.asn.au

KATE SWAIN CHATS TO LOGAN ABOUT HIS EXPLOITS AND PURSUITS OVER THE PAST TWELVE MONTHS

Q: Did it all go to plan?

A: The year plan was pretty vague from the beginning and very flexible. Patagonia was way more intense physically than I expected, a lot of walking up steep slopes, finding ourselves in dodgy positions, aiding up icy cracks and a tiny bit of actual rock climbing. I lost about two grades of climbing fitness there, which wasn't good for my arrival in Europe. Owen and I had planned to go to the Alps straight after Patagonia but were so burnt out we decided to bail on that idea and I ended up climbing with some Scottish friends in Siurana, Spain till Will arrived. The summer in Europe was amazing and I was able to climb and hang out with a lot of motivated strong climbers. The Alps in August with Rob was great, although we didn't get the Eiger done. We had hoped to do the trilogy of classic peaks. Afterwards I had planned to head to Geyik Bayeri in Turkey for the last part of the year but I ended up in touch with Duncan Brown, an Australian living in Yangshuo, China, who convinced me to go and visit for a couple of months.

Q: What were the highlights?

A: The fondest memories I have are from rest days at Ceuse! Sitting around drinking coffee all day with amazing people from so many different backgrounds. I remember sitting around in the sun with Alizee Dufraisse to one side and Sasha Diguilian to the other and just thinking how awesome life was! As for my climbing, I enjoyed every single sport route I did in Europe but there were two objectives that meant the most to me during the year. The first was the Matterhorn. I have no idea why other than that it's an amazing inspiring mountain, which in reality is small, easy and super fun. After trying a snow covered Hornli ridge in 2008 with Dan Lee, every time I saw a Toblerone I regretted not summiting. It was great to finally do it and share the experience with Rob. The second objective was The Fish on the south face of The Marmolada, Italy. When I started climbing I heard about this route and the way it spat off many of the top climbers of the time. The grade really has little to do with its aura of difficulty. It is long, occasionally loose, runout, and the protection takes imagination to find. It took all my skills as a climber and a very good partner in Alan Carne, a friend from the Verdon, who started climbing with the likes of Jerry Moffat and Co, to attempt the line. I managed to free all the difficulties, although stopped, where many do, before the route turns to icy third and fourth class chimneys to the summit.

Q: Tell me more about the Fish. It has quite a reputation for being committing, exposed and the crux pitches (5 pitches of 7a-7b++) are extremely technical. It has also seen a fair number of accidents due to loose rock on some of the pitches or lack of gear. For example Lawrence, another Perth climber, pulled a microwave sized block off on one of the easier, but sparsely protected first pitches just after your visit and was heli-

coptered off with a broken leg and lots of bruising. What was your motivation to do a route with such an intimidating reputation?

A: I regularly switch between pushing myself physically in the safe confines of a sport crag to wanting a more mental, adventurous challenge. I am not so keen on the suffering of slogging up slopes in bad weather that forms a large part of pure alpinism so I find doing a technically difficult big wall in semi alpine conditions a nice medium. The Fish is one of the most well respected big routes in Europe. It is still a proving ground for top all round climbers and this is what attracted me. I am always competing with myself to improve and this was one way of measuring that improvement. The crux pitches are on bulletproof high quality limestone that would all get five stars even at a legendary crag like Ceuse. These pitches, while run out on interesting gear, including sky hooks jammed into pockets, are relatively safe as long as you know your capabilities. Alan and I didn't take any of the possibly large falls thankfully. The first three easier pitches are all harder than the grades given and on loose blocky rock. It is easy to underestimate their seriousness and many good climbers have broken legs and ankles on them due to pulling off blocks while needlessly run out. Lawrence is a very good climber, especially at attempting these types of routes. He had, a week earlier, made it a fair way up into the difficulties of the route before having to turn around. Most likely for this last attempt he was confidently climbing through the lower pitches without placing much gear and would have been surprised to find himself airborne holding a block of limestone!

Q: If it was in the US would it get an R or X rating for risky or dangerous?

A: I would say it would get an R rating. As long as you stay level

headed, not over committing to sequences you can't reverse, and place good gear then it isn't too bad.

Q: How did it compare to other routes you've done such as your FFA of The Great Roof pitch on Bluff Knoll which you graded 26 R/X in 2007?

A: The Great Roof has one run out off a ledge on friable rock. Its not that difficult climbing through that section, but if you fell the fall would be very nasty. The difficulties in the roof are actually protected and so aren't that bad. The Fish was a bit different in that the rock quality of the crux pitches was never in doubt. You could trust anything and so run outs were just a test of your confidence in your ability. The route I compare it most to is All Along the Watchtower (1300m ED2, 5.12-) in the Bugaboos, which I climbed with Lawrence in 2006. Not because of similarities in style but in achievement levels. They are the two coolest routes I have done and I feel my biggest achievements. I think All Along the Watchtower still rates higher as it was an onsight ascent, an absolute epic and we topped out.

Q: Do you think doing these type of dangerous and risky routes was a key factor to your success on the Fish, or do you think that doing hard routes like the 8a+'s you sent in Ceuse (Encore and Face de Rat) prior to the ascent made a bigger difference?

A: Both. I couldn't have done as well as I did without the confidence of climbing past my gear. That only comes with a lot of experience and knowing your capabilities. The time I spent in Ceuse beforehand was invaluable in learning how to move confidently on the type of bullet hard pocketed limestone that is found on the Marmolada. Alan and I spent a couple of weeks doing volume days at Ceuse onsighting up to 7c (27) before attempting The Fish

and I wouldn't want to have been climbing any worse.

Q: You went on to consolidate yourself as a grade 30+ climber later that trip on routes such as Cubata + Chupita 3 euros (8b or 31) at Margalef, Spain in October 2012 and Lightning (31) at Lei Pi Shan (or 'Thunder and Lightning Mountain') in China in November 2012. What led to your success after so many months climbing? Were you worried you were going to burn out?

A: I think the fact I did my hardest ascents in the second half of the year was a mix of factors. I definitely got fitter rather than stronger which made my ascents faster rather than increasing my grade. I also did Patagonia at the beginning, which drained me a bit,

and then went to Siurana where the style is vertical reachy moves on crimps which doesn't suit me. Later in the year I climbed to my strengths, which is pockets on steep ground in Margalef and semi-steep resistance routes on limestone in China.

I had a few lapses in motivation but that was only when I lacked goals. I did feel a bit burnt out after The Fish but climbing well so motivated myself with hard sport ascents. After I sent Lightning I found an amazing line up the middle of Lei Pi Shan, which I bolted and spent the next month and a half on. I find first ascents are incredibly motivating and this route, which I named Storm Born, would have also been my hardest ascent. Despite not being able to link two sections of the route together the

challenge breathed life into the end of trip.

Q: Your variety of route choices and disciplines seems to be a reflection of your interests in climbing. You are from WA (for those of you who don't know Logan, I'm sure you've heard of him, seen his hulky silhouette in the Mountain Designs catalogue, or know of him and his legendary strength and stature as WA hard-man). When and how did you first start climbing?

A: My first ever day climbing was in the Rockface with a friend from school (year 9?) trying to pull myself up a grade 18 on the little roof at the right hand end of the lead wall. There was a top rope set up there then. I then climbed for a year once a week at the



LOGAN IN CHINA

Photos by David Kaszlikowski
www.davidkaszlikowski.com



LEFT: Logan on Lightning (13d) in China (Abond)



Hangout with some friends I had grown up with.

My parents bought me a rope, six quickdraws and some bolt plates and I did my first outdoor trip with my friends to Darlington boulders. I remember I had the first lead as I had the rope and draws. None of us knew what we were doing and I found myself run out to the first bolt on a route trying to figure out how a hanger actually went on a carrot bolt!

I met Pat Turner at the Rockface one day and everything changed around then. I went from playing around at a once a week social event to training multiple days a week on the Rockface back wall (which is actually the front?).

Pat and I would also catch the Greyhound down to my Grandma's house on the weekends and holidays and would be given a lift to Wilyabrup, where we would camp under Mob Job and teach ourselves trad.

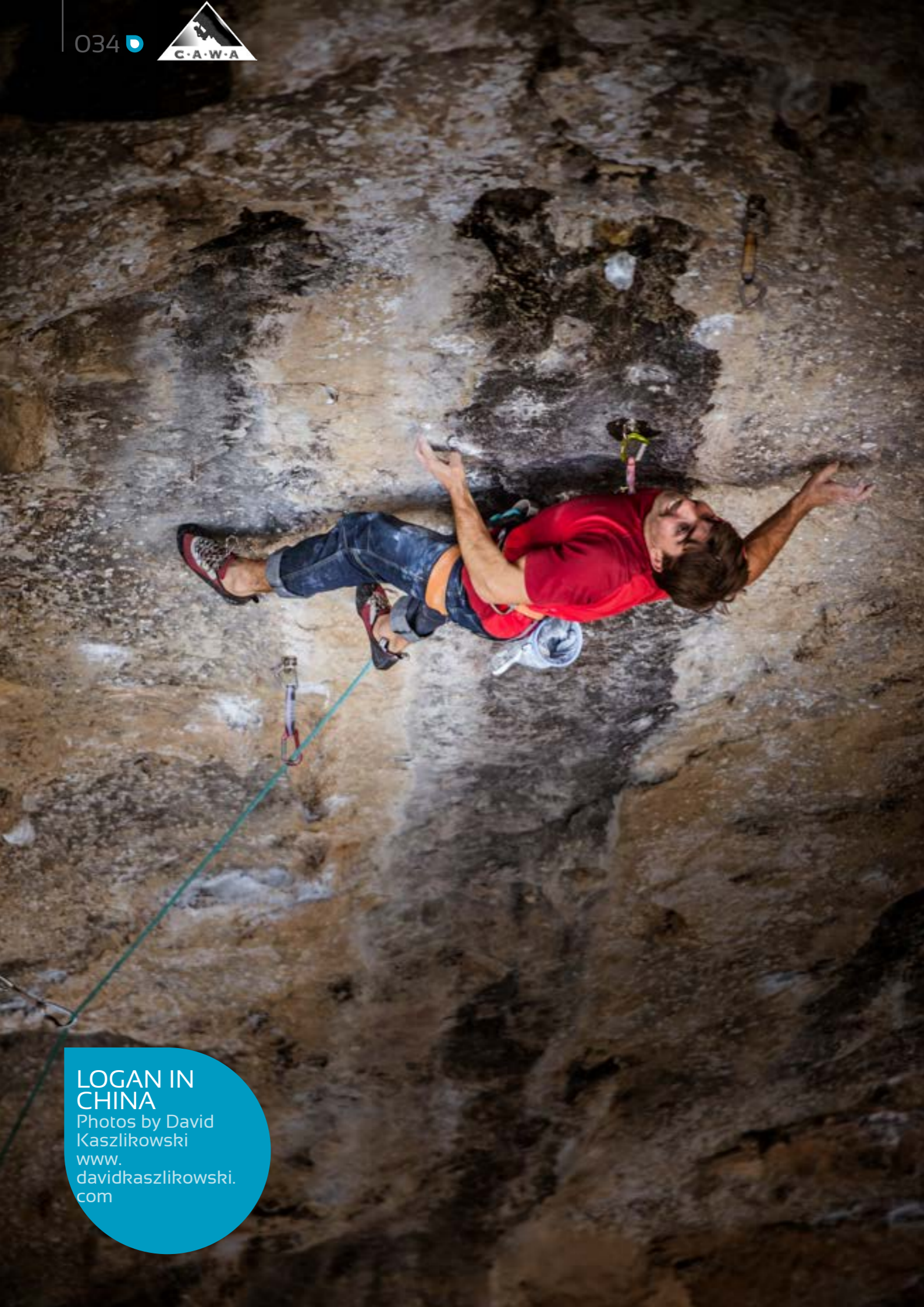
Q: You climbed a lot with Pat Turner in your early days and it seems you were both pushing the standards of WA climbing at the time. Was there a lot of rivalry, or just healthy competition?

A: Pat had a couple of years extra climbing and a lot more natural talent, so it was kind of pointless trying to compete with him. Nevertheless I am a competitive person, maybe due to my gymnastics background, and I was always try-

ing to catch up. So I guess in a way it was healthy competition.

Q: Do you think he influenced your climbing style or ethics in those years of development?

A: Definitely. I think we both were influenced by the mental side of climbing which meant hard trad ascents were cool and if you placed bolts too close together you were cheating. I remember bolting Space Monkey at Mountain Quarry with only about three bolts, just close enough to prevent a ground fall at each one. I look back on that now and shake my head. As climbing becomes more mainstream sport climbing should be safe, fun and accessible. Europe is way ahead of Australia in this regard.



LOGAN IN CHINA

Photos by David Kaszlikowski
www.davidkaszlikowski.com

Q: Who else influenced you in your climbing and why?

A: I wouldn't say anyone specifically. After my school years and learning to climb I started to travel to climb and met a lot of amazing driven people who all influenced me. For many years I was also shaped by a great Perth crew who climbed regularly at the Rockface and did trips most weekends.

Q: You have put up a number of first ascents and early repeats in WA since early on in your climbing career. Space Monkey (28) at Mountain Quarry in 2002, Chickens (26) and Minidala (V8) at Stathams Quarry in 2003 and 2004, 3rd ascent of Lucid Dreams (31) at Golgotha Cave in 2009 and Zeus (90m 20 A1/A2) at the Throne Room at West Cape Howe in 2010. Where did you get your appetite for new routes from?

A: When I started climbing a first ascent was sought after because I got to make up a silly name and have my name in the guidebook for all eternity! This only stemmed from my respect for previous first ascensionists and their cool route names. Cardio Funk (29) in Mountain Quarry by Gerard Chipper always seemed like an unobtainable dream when I started climbing. Nowadays a first ascent is more about the creative vision to see a line and giving something back to the climbing community. I would much rather find, equip (if needed) and free a route than free an existing project.



Q: You've also done a number of first ascents overseas: Alpine Birdy (3 pitch, 5.12b) on Mount Kinabalu in Malaysia, where you had to hand drill some bolts into granite, and Storm Born (29 or 8a) at Thunder and Lightning Mountain in China. (Note: The full line Logan bolted is 40m with a chain half way, Storm Born goes to the first anchor. The entire line will likely be 32/33.) Did the variety of climbing you did in WA help prepare you for climbing success overseas?

A: WA is an interesting place to start climbing. Realistically there isn't a lot around so often improvement is slow. It's not like France or Spain where you have 100 well protected routes of each grade to throw yourself at. However the variety of rock types and styles in WA is special and does produce some very well rounded climbers. The distance between crags also means you have to be very motivated to search out routes you haven't tried before. All together this scene produces some very solid, driven climbers. The key to improving from this solid foundation is definitely to travel though. Once you see huge features like El Cap in Yosemite, The Bugaboo Spires in Canada, The Getu Arch in China, The south face of the Marmolada in Italy etc. you realize how flat WA really is!

Q: I see you've chosen to not move back to WA after your trip and you now live in the Blue Mountains. What are the drivers behind the move after living and climbing in WA for so long?

A: My family and many friends are from WA and as a geologist it is a good place to earn money to pay for all my travels. Unfortunately I am very motivated to climb and having done almost all the routes around the state I started to get bored on my breaks in Perth. The deciding factor was when I got home from my year long trip I found many of my Perth friends had moved elsewhere, many to the Blue Mountains. I love that you can climb at an amazing crag 15 minutes from your house here, and being based on the east coast means so many amazing crags are that much more accessible.

Q: What's in the future for you? What are your next plans and goals?

A: I still want to travel, although maybe shorter trips out of a base here in the Blue Mountains, rather than year long sojourns. I have a mental list of things I really want to do while I am fit. Three of the top goals are climbing 8c (33), finally sending Punks in the Gym (32) and doing a free route on El Cap that isn't Freerider (12d). After that I have a lot of goals that involve experiencing places rather than necessarily performing well.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

REPORTER: Allison Low EMAIL: editor@climberswa.asn.au

So you've been eyeing those posters adorning the gym walls, thinking that outdoor climbing is super-extreme... dreaming that one day you will be good enough to do the same.

Outdoor climbing is within every climber's reach. The only difference is that you need gear, you need to know how to climb safely and you get fresh air. Here is a few tips on getting started.

Tip #1: Phone a Friend

Go with an experienced person who can show you the ropes (no pun intended). Books and pictures cannot ever replace live demonstrations. Look, listen, learn. Take your time to understand and practice before you are on the wall.

Tip #2: Get Geared Up

You need some basic gear to head outdoors. The following is a list of absolute minimum you will need as a climbing pair.

1. CLIMBING SHOES: There are lots of makes and models with different fits. You need to try on the shoe, as the fit varies a lot. Climbing shoes are made to be snug, so that your foot is supported while you are climbing. As a beginner, you might want to consider a shoe that is more comfortable rather than the Chris Sharma latest design. Some shoes do stretch however, so do your research!

2. HARNESS: Your harness should be snugly fitted around your waist and thighs. As a beginner, you might be sitting in a harness for a considerable time, so padding will be helpful. Adjustable leg loops are also beneficial, as these fit better with different pant thicknesses. It should have gear loops all around for you to (eventually) clip on your shiny toys!

3. HELMET: Get one. Wear it. It saves lives. Your helmet should fit snugly on your head. Having an adjustable helmet means that you can wear hats under your helmet on hot days. It may look dorky – but many climbing accidents could be avoided by wearing a helmet.

4. BELAY DEVICE / CARABINER: You will need a belay device and a locking carabiner to attach it to your harness. There are many styles and makes; with various applications. As a beginner, get a tubular belay device as

this has the greatest flexibility in use for outdoor climbing. These are not self-locking devices as commonly used in the gyms, so make sure you keep your hand on the brake line at all times.

5. ROPE: Dynamic rope should be acquired for climbing. This provides some stretch when the climber falls, absorbing some of the load that would otherwise be transferred to the body. It comes in various lengths and thicknesses. The compatibility of the belay device for your rope diameter needs to be checked. Only one rope in your group is required.

6. BOLT PLATES: Many routes in WA have carrot bolts or GIMBs so you need bolt plates to place over the head of the bolt, so you can clip in your quick draws. A set of 10 bolt plates in your group should suffice. Always bring more than you need up the climb... just in case you drop one (and it happens.... a lot)

7. QUICK DRAWS: Quick draws are used to create anchor points as you ascend a route. One end is clipped to the anchor points along the route; the other end is clipped to the rope. This is only important if you're lead climbing (we'll talk about this next time). As a beginner, get the leader in your group to set up a top rope system and you won't have to worry about quick draws yet. A set of quick draws is required in your group.

8. ANCHOR SYSTEMS: Your leader may have additional carabiners and slings to set-up top rope anchors. Safe climbing means a 100% redundancy in your anchor system. This means that if one anchor point fails, you still have a second as a back-up. You should always have a minimum of two anchor points, when setting up a route for beginners. Additional locking carabiners and slings are useful for setting up anchors, especially in situations where you have to equalize a system.

9. PERSONAL ANCHOR SYSTEM: A personal anchor system attaches to your harness and allows the climber to create an independent safety system. There are special designs available on the market. Most people start out with a climbing sling. The leader within your group will use a personal anchor to remove the top rope anchors, when your climbing day is done!

10. SAFETY FIRST: Find out about the place you're going.

Think about sun protection, foot protection (if it's a long hike in), food & drink, whether you can call for help in an emergency, if there are any rangers you need to register with, what the weather is going to be like and what time the sun sets (don't laugh – hiking out in the dark, in unfamiliar territory can be dangerous!).

As your climbing advances, there are lots more shiny toys that you can spend your life savings on. A caution about picking up second hand gear to save money – make sure you know the person, and how the gear has been treated. Climbing gear has a finite life. Falls, damage, dirt, water, grime, blood and can affect gear performance and safety. Whilst gear comes with a big price tag, I reckon so does my life (and the lives of my friends that are climbing off the system I set up).

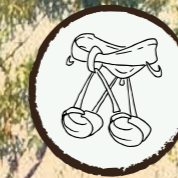
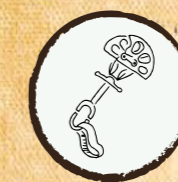
Tip #3: Have Fun!

Outdoor climbing is fantastic. Apart from getting fresh air, there are always new challenges to face. The first time will be a little daunting, but ask your leader questions. Look, listen and learn. Do some reading before hand – or watch some training videos (there are lots available on-line). You are responsible at the end of the day, for your own safety. Most of all, have fun while you're outdoors – take your time to enjoy and respect your surroundings. I love mostly, the satisfactory view across the valley from the top of every climb.

In the next edition, we will talk about the different types of outdoor climbing and what it all means.



PHOTO: Brian Tan on 'Thrutchin' the Bison' (22) in Kalbarri. By Rodney Tan.



ALL THE GEAR YOU NEED

FOR YOUR NEXT

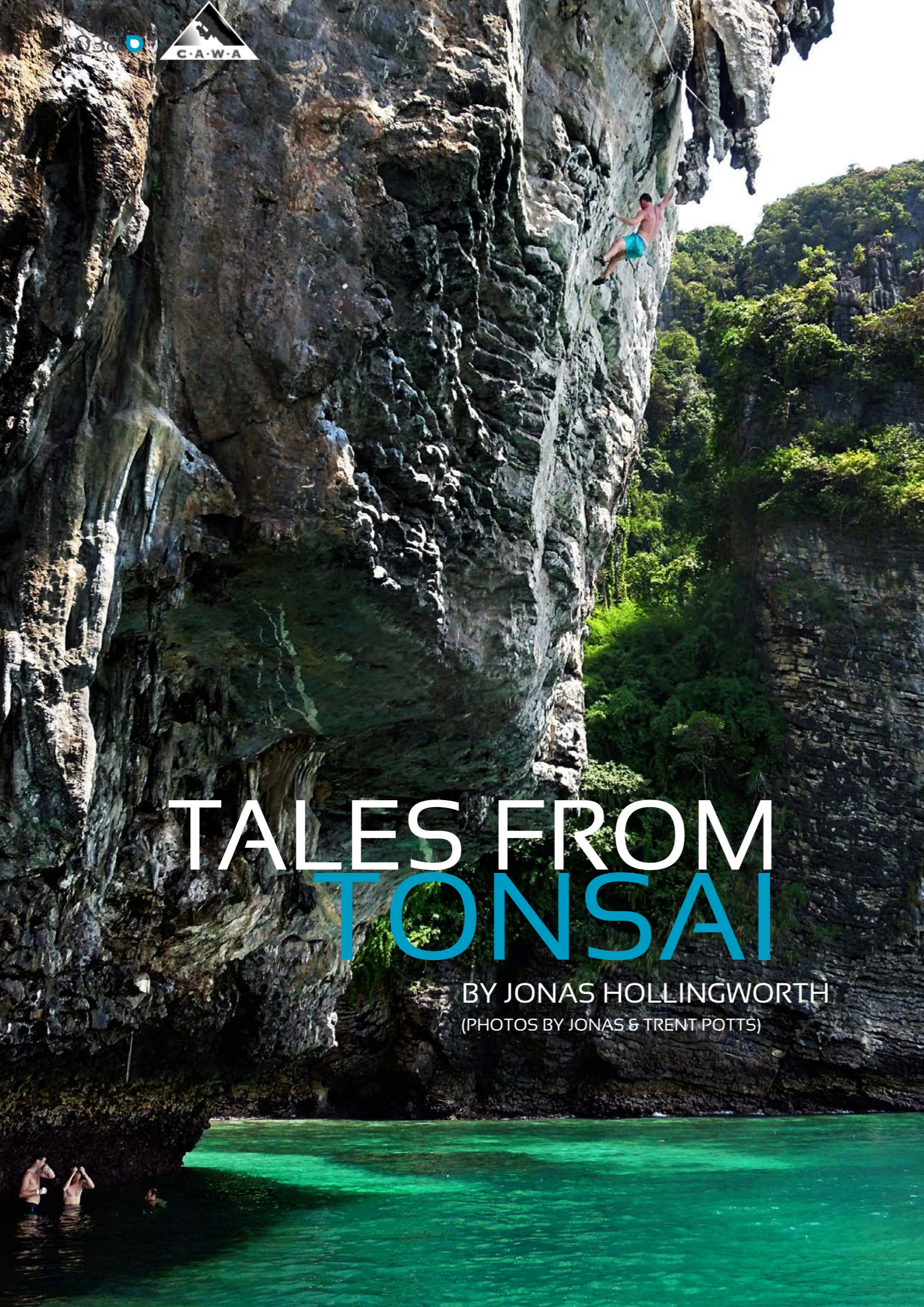
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TALES FROM TONSAI

BY JONAS HOLLINGWORTH
(PHOTOS BY JONAS & TRENT POTTS)



GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL

Tonsai and Rai-Lay beach: the climbing scene here surpasses all the hype surrounding it, so Trent and I found out October last year. Its more than just a place to climb, more than just hundreds of conveniently located awesome routes and more than just a picturesque tropical paradise. It's so many other things.

THE LOCATION. Tonsai and Rai-Lay Beach are situated on a small peninsula about a three hour ride from Phuket. We arrived in Phuket too late in the day to catch the ferry, so we decided to fork out our first Thai Baht for a 3hr cab fare to Ao-Nang. We needed to take a long boat from there as there are no roads to or in Tonsai and Rai-Lay. We bartered a deal with a taxi driver for 2100 Baht (or about \$75) which, we figured when split between both of us, was well worth saving us the hassle of spending a night in Phuket or the rigmarole of multiple bus connections. The long boat arrived in Rai-Lay after dark and we decided to spend the first night there and take a two minute boat ride to Tonsai first thing in the morning.

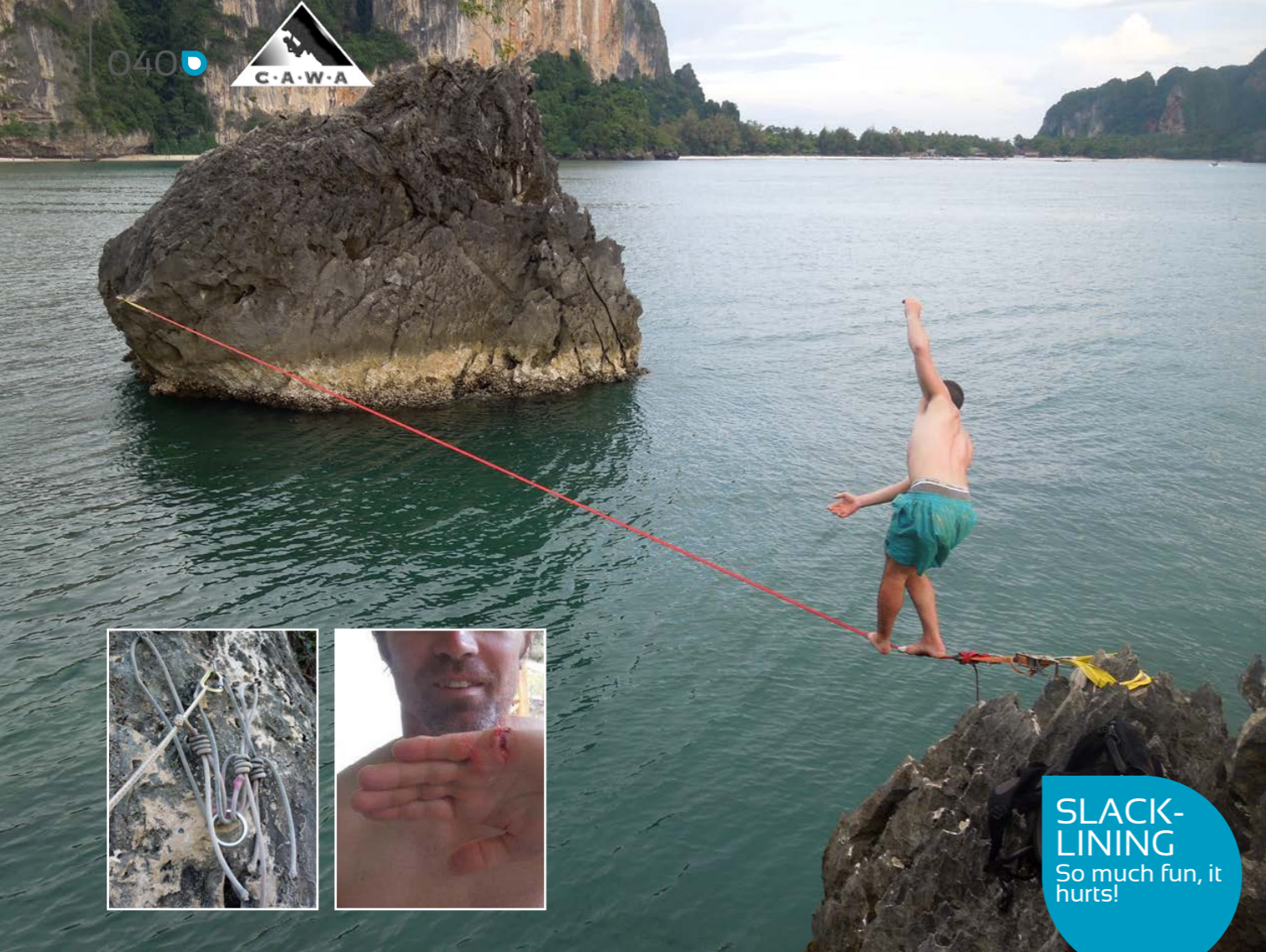
THE STAY. Whilst Rai-Lay is a

nice place, its perhaps more suited to family and honeymooners whereas for a climber, Tonsai is the place to be. A room here is not quite as cheap as camping at 'The Pines' in Arapiles but not far off and you'll get a whole lot more. It wasn't hard to find a reasonable quality room with two beds, a toilet, shower and balcony for \$20-25p/n and we even heard of more basic rooms going for \$10-15p/n. Another friend, Val, turned up a few days later so we squeezed another bed in, split the price three ways which made the deal even better. For food, we barely missed a meal at 'Big Mamas' with big servings, delicious food, prompt service and cheap prices. Big Mamas was also a great place to meet other climbers and donate your left-overs to climbing bums.

THE ATMOSPHERE. People from every corner of the globe converge here for one main common purpose, to climb. By day they climb, by night they party. Or you can just climb at night on the lit-up Tonsai Beach Wall above the Freedom Bar. When I mean above the bar, I mean above the bar, literally. Only just a few metres from the bar itself, Trent couldn't resist the novelty of being able order a beer whilst still 'on-rope' after rappelling off 'Humanity' (6b+). And who wouldn't after climbing one of the popular classics at Tonsai. The memorable fourth

TONSAI
A climber's paradise, found on the peninsula between Ao Nang and Krabi, Thailand

"PEOPLE FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE CONVERGE HERE FOR A COMMON PURPOSE. BY DAY THEY CLIMB, BY NIGHT THEY PARTY"



SLACK-LINING
So much fun, it hurts!

pitch of 'Humanity' involves a committing move from a featureless face onto a giant 10m Stalactite and then back again and is a must do. Tip: take beer money.

THE WEATHER. Although Thailand is tropical and humid, the temperature in October was quite reasonable and with walls somewhat like Arapiles facing north, south, east and west, there was always somewhere to climb in the shade. Some routes are even shaded all day round like the sensational 'Best Route in Minnesota' 25m 6c****. Yes, that's right, not 3 stars but 5 stars! Located inside a cave at Pha-Nang Beach on 'Esher World' Wall, a 5min boat ride or 20min walk from Tonsai, it's a classic not to be missed and a very unique route. You're guaranteed to have one of those 'love at first sight' moments that surfers would call 'the perfect break'. You'll understand when you see it. Tip: take one extra quick draw than what the guide book states because you'll need it.

THE ROCK. Thai rock is predominantly limestone. I toughened my hands up as best I could at Black Wall Reach in the preceding weeks in preparation for the punishment ahead however this was barely sufficient. My rope and draws also took some punishment and I was thankful my trad rack was resting safely at home as all routes here are either bolted or slung, in one form or another. By that I mean the bolts are either well placed, high quality titanium or rusty and corroded bolts and slings that should have been replaced last Millennia. One has to laugh at the mouldy, sun bleached, half severed 11mm static

which are permanently fixed as threads and anchor systems on many routes. Tip: take 3 or 4 of your own slings and screw gates to back up dodgy runners and belay stations.

So our gear suffered a little. We minimised our worry with a classic Thai 'rope' mat for about 10 bucks but were in need of a can of WD-40 to lube our hardware. Also letting your climbing partner wrap slings around his shirtless sweaty body is not a good idea - very smelly (sorry Trent). About a week in we gave our gear a day off and tested our nerves at deep water soloing. We picked up a Deep Water Solo package for \$25-30ea which included a return boat ride, 4-5hrs deep water soloing, a pair of climbing shoes, lunch and snorkelling gear.

DEEP WATER SOLOING - sounds great but it's not for everyone and I found out that it's not for me. Give me a rope any day and I will attempt any climb but take the rope away and I begin to cower at about the 8m mark. My problem is not just the thought of jumping off from a bloody great height but also the potential of an uncontrolled fall resulting in a devastating belly flop. It doesn't look high from the boat but a human's perspective of height looking from the ground is always underestimated. Saying that, Trent was all over the wall like a fat kid on a mountain of chocolate. He was pulling some serious moves at about 15-18m which had viewers gasping. Tip: bring your own shoes or arrive early to take first pick as no matter what they say, you're not going to get good shoes.

THE MEMORIES. The longest route we did was 'Big Wave' 6b on 'Monkey World' wall which was a memorable 5 pitch 135m climb that won't be forgotten anytime soon. Trent and I teamed up with a random Israeli guy that we met at the base of the climb just 2 minutes before (only a climber understands). His girlfriend/wife wasn't keen on the height so we invited him to join us as the third man. Val wasn't up for the epic either so it was only logic that he partner up with the girlfriend/wife and go off do their own thing. Climbing on twin ropes, we rotated lead every pitch and simultaneously belayed the second and third on a separate ropes which was efficient and worked well. We enjoyed the spectacular view at the top whilst each consuming a 'killer python' and then cringed when placing our body weight on the atrocious rap anchors on the way down. I sighed with relief when I touched the ground but it was well worth it.

THE NIGHT LIFE. I think there are as many bars as there are hotels and they're the place to be after dark. The Sunset Bar was our daily haunt. It's situated on the beach with live reggae, mellow tunes, a pool table, slackline and plenty of cushions spread all over the place. There was the occasional fire breather, three choices of beer and a list of cocktails. We started doing rounds of cocktails after I lost a bet. The shouts came to an abrupt halt after the third round (Val's shout) when Trent enquired about the ingredients of the rather tasty bar special we had just consumed. Let's just say the ingredients may have not have exactly been legal and it's called a 'Happy Shake' for a reason! Tip: be sure to find out the ingredients of your cocktail before ordering

(if you care about these things or are in danger of a piss test).

OTHER STUFF. So what else is there to do in Tonsai and Rai-Lay? Snorkelling, base jumping, swimming, kayaking, caving, hiking and more. I tried my hand at Slacklining for the first time over water. 'Tried my hand' being the operative words. We hired kayaks to take us out to a spot on the reef where we had spied a slackline a day earlier. Eagerness and excitement quickly gave way to terror and dread as I came off the line without even a step and then proceeded to hit the reef on the way down. The rocks on that reef were sharper than my slacklining skills and gave my hand a nasty gash down to the bone. I had carried a med kit around with me everywhere and for the first time it finally came in handy. Back on our balcony Trent and I cut some loose flesh away with a scalpel and I thoroughly cleaned the wound. Although my little pinky was numb it wasn't all bad news as there was no tendon damage, however the incident did put an end to climbing for my remaining 2 days in Tonsai. Tip: eight nights here is not long enough!

And eight days in Tonsai is not long enough. 'Twas but a taste. Merely a reconnaissance for future operations. I toiled with the idea of somehow extending my leave and shirking my responsibilities in Perth for another week. However I eventually I faced the inevitable and reluctantly left Trent, Val and Shaun (who had only just arrived) and boarded the ferry for Phuket. And so from that day forth I have pledged to return on an annual pilgrimage for as long as my boss will approve and my leave balance will hold out. Until next time.



"I HAVE PLEDGED TO RETURN ON AN ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE FOR AS LONG AS MY BOSS APPROVES AND MY LEAVE BALANCE HOLDS OUT"

2013 PHOTO COMPETITION

REPORTER: Mandy Bowler EMAIL: editor@climberswa.asn.au

AND THE WINNER IS....

As much as anyone loves going to an AGM (*cough*), it is always a bonus when a bit of healthy competition is involved. Plus it is a great excuse to see some amazing photos from not only WA, but all over the world.

Apart from the formalities of the AGM, it was a massive pleasure to hear Rick Allen speak of his first ascent of the Mazeno Ridge on Nanga Parbat in Pakistan. I honestly could have listened to his stories all night!

For the Climbing in WA category, Henry Cook took out the honours with his surprise guest on Juggernaut at the ever-popular crag, Bob's Hollow. Kinda put me off the next time I went to Bob's a few weeks later! Second place was Kate Swain's great shot of her dad Chris climbing on the south coast, and third place went to Brian Tan for his shot of Rodney in Kalbarri. I loved the colours so much, it became our cover shot for this issue!

The three winners took home \$60, \$40 and \$20 respectively and a Black Diamond climbing tshirt, donated by The Hangout.

Lots of us take overseas climbing trips so please take some photos next time you're away and feel free to submit articles and your photos to us, not only for the comp but for some great reading in the mag. The turquoise waters of Poda Island, Thailand and the extreme deep water soloing tactics of Trent Potts, saw Jonas Hollingworth take out the 'Climbing Everywhere Else' category and take home twin ropes donated by Rockface.

Second and Third place were of the amazing summit of Dent du Geant in Chamonix by Ross Weiter and Peter Thomas respectively. They both scored 1 month memberships to one of Perth's newest gyms, City Summit.

Start working on your entries for next year people!



HENRY COOK'S WINNING IMAGE

The carpet python on Juggernaut (18) at Bob's Hollow



OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT:

1st place Jonas Hollingworth Trent potts deep water soloing at Poda Island, Thailand

3rd place Peter Thomas Ross Weiter on the summit of Dent du Geant 4013m, Chamonix, France

2nd place Ross Weiter Peter Thomas nears the



ABOVE:

2nd place Kate Swain: Chris Swain seconding a route on the South Coast of WA

RIGHT:

3rd place Brian Tan: Rodney Tan traversing out on Looking at the ears at the Promenade, Kalbarri

We hope you've enjoyed our new-look Western Climber! Look out for the winter issue in early July and don't forget to send in your photos and articles and of course, any feedback or ideas on how we can make this an even more awesome publication.

Happy Climbing!