



western climber

Issue 020 - Winter 2016

9

Mike Law Clinics

Words of wisdom from 'The Claw' himself

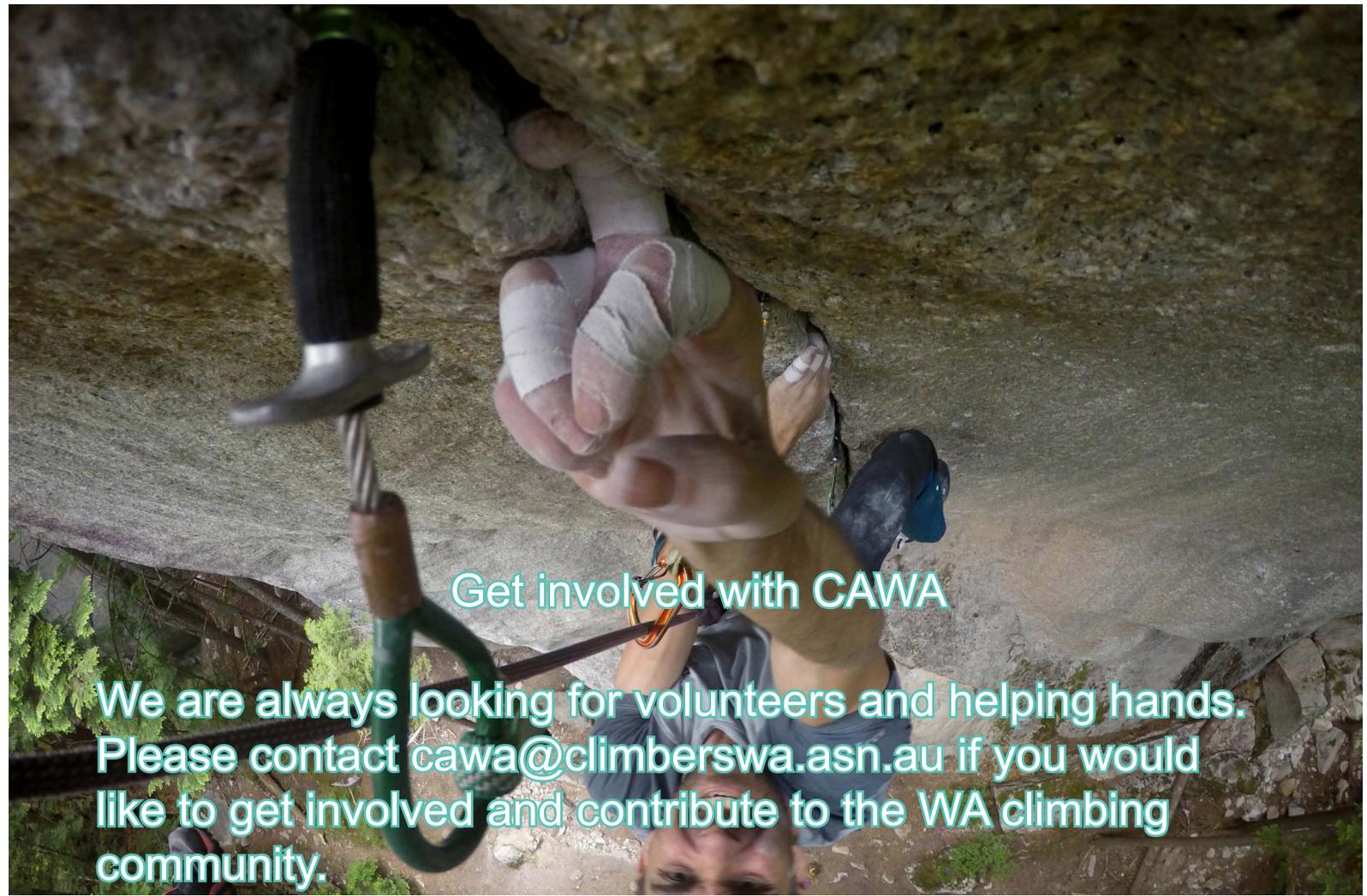
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Canadian Crack Climbing

Logan Barber talks crack climbing in China and Canada

CAWA Website

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



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.

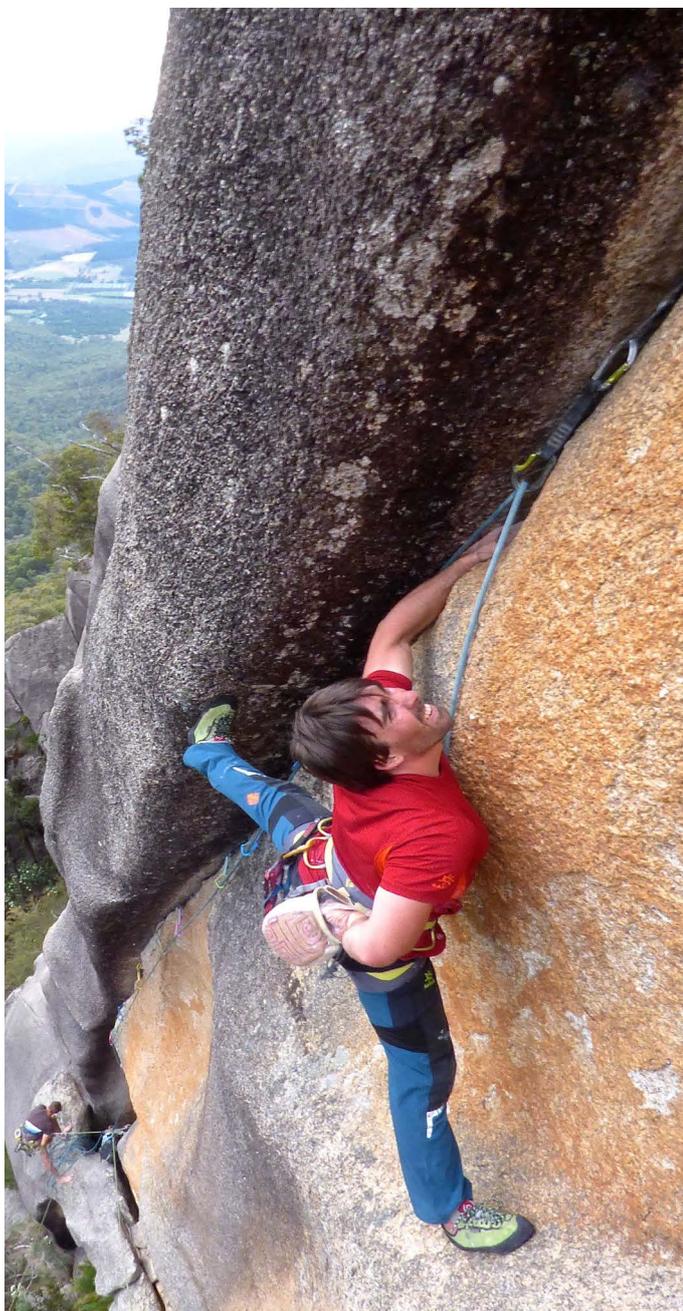
The Climbers' Association of Western Australia was formed in 1968 and incorporated in August 1979. CAWA's purpose is to promote and develop climbing, especially in WA, and to promote and protect the interests of climbers in WA. The management of CAWA is conducted by a committee. Any matters that should 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 July 30, 2016. 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!

In This Issue...



FRONT COVER PHOTO: Sebastian Fuller on Keith Goes Blank (15), Kalbarri. Photo by Remi Vignals

PHOTO ABOVE: Logan Barber sends Great Shark Hunt (30), Mt Buffalo. Photo: Logan Barber Collection

PHOTO OPPOSITE: Cobra Crack Mono. Photo: Logan Barber Collection

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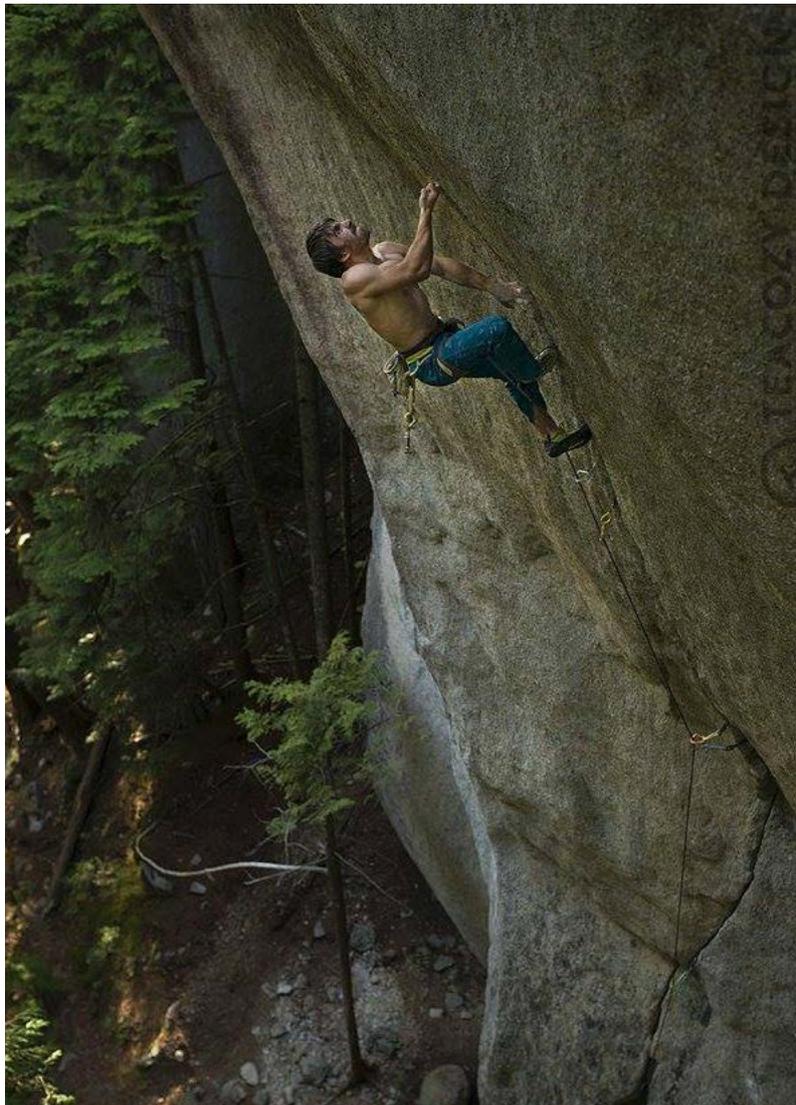
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From the Editors...

Firstly, I'd like to thank everyone for the warm welcome I've received so far as assistant editor, hopefully my first attempt isn't too bad. As Kate mentioned last edition, I'm currently studying Professional and Creative Writing at Curtin, and am a passionate, but novice, climber. As everyone I speak to seems to be these days, I'm recovering from injury, a broken toe and troublesome foot ligaments, so I haven't been out and about much, but am keen to return to the rock ASAP. We've got a pretty great issue this time, (no bias here at all), with excellent articles from Logan Barber and Mike Law as well as a recount of the CAWA Kalbarri trip.

Cheers and CAWAbunga!

Matt West and Kate Swain
Western Climber Editors



Logan Barber Attempts the Cobra Crack (33), Squamish.
Photo: Logan Barber Collection

Climbing Gym Locations



ROCKFACE
63B John Street
Northbridge
93285998
More Information:
www.rockface.com.au



THE HANGOUT
12 White Street
Bayswater
93219939
More Information:
www.thehangout.com.au



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Malaga
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More Information:
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Bassendeen
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President's Report

Dear fellow climbers,

Welcome to a brand new issue of Western Climber and to an equally new CAWA Committee. For those who don't know me, my name is Mark Edele and I've just been elected as the President for CAWA in 2016. We are fortunate to have a diverse range of experienced climbers on the committee this year (check out the "Meet the Committee" section below). If you need to get in touch with anyone, contact details can be found here: <http://www.climberswa.asn.au/cawa/committee/>.

One of the tasks we have set for ourselves this year is to improve communication between the committee and ordinary members. As part of this effort, I will write a blog entry after each committee meeting summarizing what we discussed (see <http://www.climberswa.asn.au/blog/category/news/>).

The new Committee continues the tradition of organising trips and gym crashes (<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/events/>). Given that we have a number of experienced boulderers on the committee we were excited to include a day bouldering trip this year. Unfortunately, the weather was uncooperative, with weeks of nice winter weather during the week and downpours on the weekend. Woody went beyond the call of duty on the day by driving out in the rain to verify that the boulders were indeed wet. So the boulder trip had to be cancelled on the day. We hope to resurrect it before it gets too hot and the ticks get too active again. If you haven't bouldered before, come along and try out a new style of climbing, you might get hooked (or, like me,

scared)!

In order to handle access issues, we formed an Access Subcommittee, chaired by Vice President Dan Binks. Dirk Klicker, Gareth Wood, Remi Vignals, Nathan Cole, and Peter Thomas. The Access Subcommittee handles access issues as directed by the CAWA committee. If you become aware of any access issues, want to work toward re-opening climbing at Wallcliffe, are looking to develop an area or need more information, please get in touch with Dan. The subcommittee had a running start, with feedback on the draft Kalbarri Draft Code of Conduct (<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/blog/2016/05/kalbarri-update/>) and a substantial submission to the Albany Coast Draft Management Plan (<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/blog/2016/07/comments-to-the-albany-draft-mp-2016/>). Tip of the climbing helmet to WC editor Kate Swain, who helped enormously with the latter.

In addition to access, the following are issues for the Committee's work in the year ahead:

- focus on communication and a more presence in social media
- legal changes for associations requiring some action on our part, including an updating of our somewhat archaic constitution

We are also looking at things we could do better, some of these include:

- improving the website and blog
- plastic membership cards
- once-off insurance options for non-members to join trips
- member feedback

We ran a survey of members and non-members, which turned out to be very popular (<http://www.climberswa.asn.au/blog/2016/07/cawa-survey-ended/>). We are still analyzing the results, but one topic stood out: bolting. A large section of the climbing community wants CAWA to get involved in re-bolting efforts. There has been a lot of discussion about this issue in the past, and thus far CAWA has been reluctant to take this task on (and for good reason – see the report on the debates at the last AGM below). After discussion of the survey results, the Committee decided at its June meeting that CAWA should get involved in efforts to make our cliffs safer. At this point, this decision is “in principle.” Details will be worked out over the coming months.

A second item that stood out from the survey results was that there is nearly generalized unhappiness with the way the website works at present. We are aware that things could be better and are working on it. Indeed, with quite some IT expertise on the Committee, we formed yet another subcommittee ...

Not all is so serious, however. In order to encourage committee members to not forget that they are managing a climbers' association, we formed the “Subcommittee on Sending.” The following rules apply:

- a. All Committee members are automatically members of the Subcommittee on Sending.
- b. Sends are to be reported at each Committee meeting and acclaimed by the rest of the Committee
- c. Only outdoor sends count. No plastic.
- d. Any member who fails to send anything for more than one month, will be excluded from the subcommittee. S/he will be the subject of generalized pity.

- e. An excluded subcommittee member will be readmitted upon sending at least two climbs between two committee meetings.
- f. Any sends count – no matter the grade or height (boulder problems count).

So far, the main victim of this policy was Vice-President Dan, who had not managed to get on real rock at all since March. Pitiful, indeed. After a short trip to the Blue Mountains saved me the first time around, I was excluded for one month, but was advised strongly that this was not good enough. Thanks to the CAWA Kalbarri trip, where I was desperate enough to climb something easy in the rain just to get a send (see trip report below) and some more recent gnarly trad climbing near Canberra, I gained re-entry, and managed to remain in the subcommittee thus far. Peter, too, was censured for lack of climbing in the June meeting, but will mend his ways. Everybody else was climbing busily and some members had outstanding results. Remi, after a season of working towards it, ticked “Kalbarri Gold” (27) at the end of the CAWA trip (see trip report below), and Woody, after sending “Homophobia” (28), has now all climbs at the Promenade in the bag. What will he do with his life now? The rest of us climbed more moderately, but Secretary Brian, not to be weighed down by fatherhood, finished an astonishing second place in the opens of Boulder Hub’s “Kinetic” competition.

There is a lot of work ahead, and hopefully a lot of climbing. If there are any issues you would like to bring to the attention of the Committee, please do not hesitate to contact me (marke@climberswa.asn.au) or any other committee member. Meanwhile, climb hard, be safe, and check your knot.

Mark

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CAWA Training clinics, February 2016

By Mike Law



Mike Law giving anchor advice at Churchman's. Photo by Phil Calais

I was excited when I was asked to run these clinics. One is a gym to rock course I run a few times a year, and the other was a full day trad/sport/training/belaying/theory shemozzle.

Gym to Rock Course: What are basic things you want someone straight out of a gym (who probably climbs better than you) to know? Particularly if they are going to belay you.

How to belay? Most leaders telegraph their terrors so unexpected falls are very rare, but you absolutely need to be ready for a catch. You need to know how to give soft or hard catches and when to give them. Heavy belayers never get a hard catch themselves and need to be able to give a soft catch for a light leader. It's nice to know how to belay if you lose your device (Munter hitch). How to abseil safely, and how to add friction before and during an abseil. How to thread

anchors safely. Both these skills rely on doing a physical check (weighting the system) before coming off your safety as the eye tends to see what it expects to see. I put prusiking in as an essential skill AND it's good for burning off the keen people. You don't need many knots (F8, Munter, Prusik) but you should be able to tie them blindfolded.

Trad/Sport/Everything Course: For the trad course I was keen to avoid a long day in the sun (the week before, someone sent an internet meme saying "I'm not saying it's hot in Perth, but some hobbits are throwing rings in my back yard"). We (Dena and I) compromised on a morning at Churchman's Brook and an afternoon in the gym.

We started by defining 4 areas along the base of the cliff and making anchors. These were the sort of spots that have you asking your second if there's any more rope left,

but were all ok with a bit of fiddling (and removing the dirt and grass I'd tamped into all the subtle gear placements).

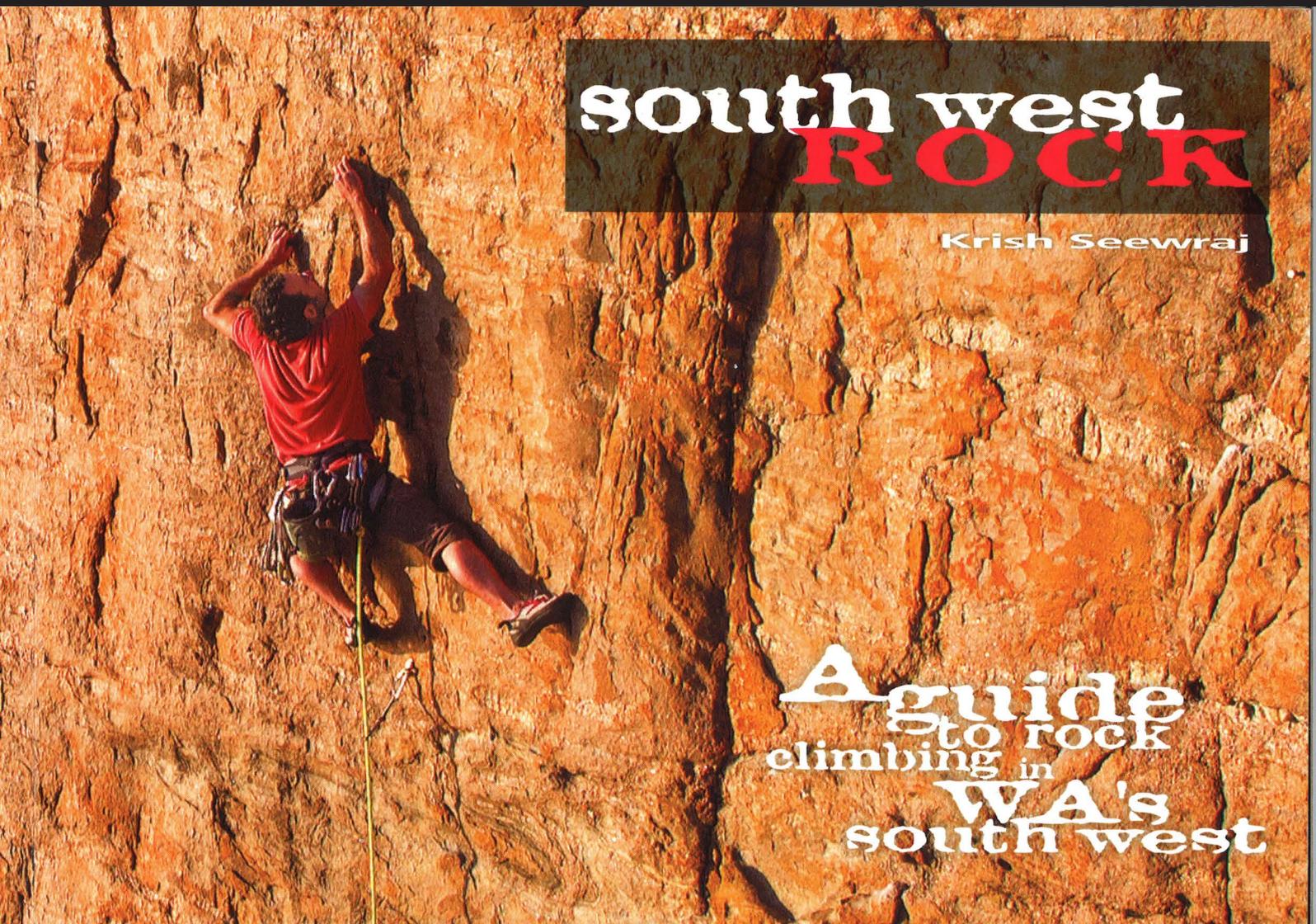
We went on to discuss why trad feels so much harder than sport, and how you can learn to climb trad well. We ignored the big question of why trad 20 is so much harder than sport 20.

Back at the gym we looked at how to train (and for most people, why it's a waste of time unless you're keen to get laid) and how to focus on your weaknesses instead. Strong people train, flexible people stretch, and on-sighters go climbing. Most people work their strengths and ignore their weaknesses. These weaknesses can be as varied as; bad memory, dirty boots, ignoring everything after the crux, a fear of falling, or simply having friends who can't belay.



Other topics covered were; falling for the fearful, belay physics and belay device efficiency, why you can't actually haul, the more-than-exponential nature of rope drag, how wearing shorts makes you ingenious when rappelling, various tales of death and disfiguration, why weak gear doesn't slow you down, why trad gear flicks out much much more than it fails, how to maintain technique when pumped, how not to kill seconds, how to speeding up multipitch, and finally- how to train if you need to.





south west ROCK

Krish Seewraj

A guide
to rock
climbing in
WA's
south west

Guidebook Review

A long overdue updated guidebook to WA's south west came out in January this year. It's colourful, informative, well thought out and pays tribute to many of those who've put in the effort to support Krish Seewraj in the outcome of the product. I really like it. And I collect guidebooks, so I have a lot to compare it with. Krish has done a great job with his research, tapping into local knowledge and getting a great design layout and print quality advice from guidebook author Shane Richardson, publishing under his Climb West brand. It's a great infusion. Along with the usual crag access and route info with all photo topos, you also get geology, situation and local issues. This is great information for travellers and visitors as well as regulars, as it gives you a complete picture for time of day, season and best conditions for climbing at each of the different

areas. An easy to miss set of details if you're well acquainted with the areas. He caters for all climbers with this guide. The usual problems occur with photo topos, with some topos (Gracetown) cut off at the bottom due to trees, which may make finding the start of the routes a little difficult. The angle of the photos providing a slightly challenging perspective of some of the routes too (side-on wall for example), but in general he's done a great job. There are even a few recently developed or rediscovered areas I'm keen to check out. I also really appreciate the introductions to the land access and management for each location. Krish really has put a lot of time and effort into this publication. Punctuated with attractive and inspiring photos by Simon Carter as well as local hero photos of blurry first ascents and new route action, this is a great guide and brings the standard of guidebooks up to the modern, exciting era in which guidebooks are worth paying good money for.

CAWA Rope Rescue Course

By Louise Y

Photos by Dena Rao

A great show of 18 CAWA members of varying abilities showed up at Mountain Quarry on Sunday 10 January, for a day dedicated to rope rescue skills. We were lucky to have the weather gods send us cool weather amid a period of summer scorchers.



Our focus was single and multi-pitch scenarios of self and partner rescue (conscious and unconscious), meaning no team rescue scenarios. A key objective was to work with the standard equipment you would have on a climb (which obviously varied across the group) and understand the concepts of deploying safe rescue techniques in varying environments, while using and improvising with our own standard rack. That said, it was great to have an opportunity to pull out those rarely-used pulley gadgets and ease the rescue load!



We looked at rigging belay anchors, escaping jammed systems, ascending a rope, moving between rope systems, lowering and accompanying an injured climber and, of course, mechanical advantage pulley systems (of varying load-bearing ratios) for lifting your partner.





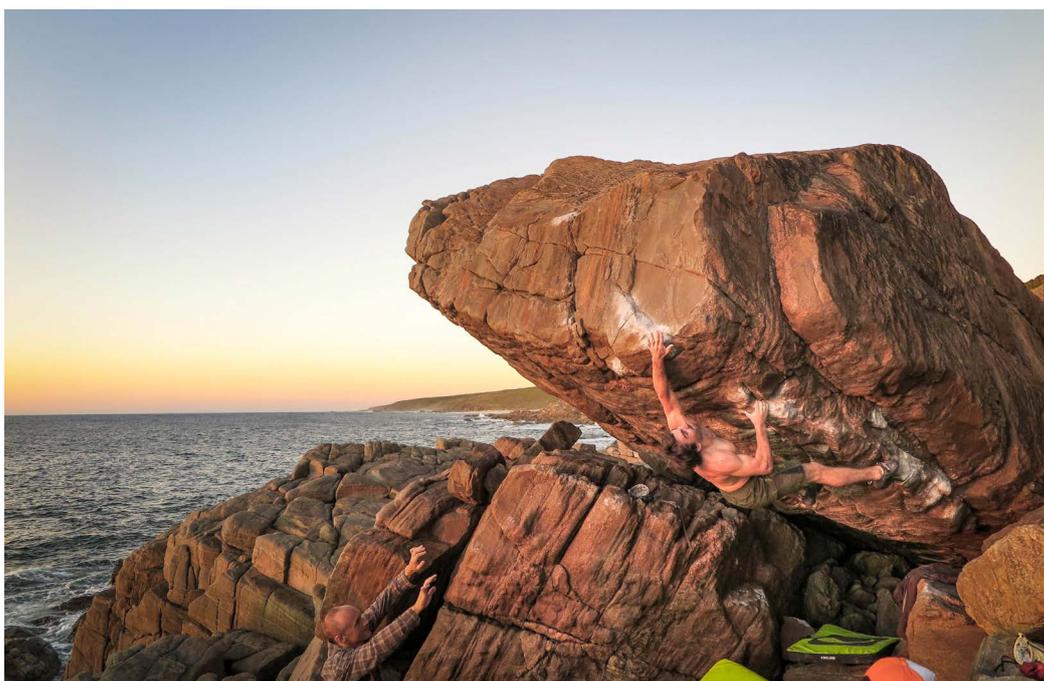
We also touched on the properties and appropriate uses of various types of rope, cord and sling. The day was organised such that participants moved informally between skills stations in their own time. Therefore, no matter what your skill level, you had all the time you needed to learn, practice, ask questions and keep building your skills. It worked incredibly well!

Thanks to WA's very own Adventure Out for conducting the session and offering a great club-focussed course at a very reasonable price. We had an excellent instructor to participant ratio, allowing lots of opportunity for questions and practice. And, of course, we were spoilt with the usual Adventure Out hospitality of tea, coffee, water, snacks, equipment loan; not to mention the depth of knowledge and years of experience of all the instructors.

It was an awesome day out and was great to see so many CAWA members so keen to come along and increase their skills. Huge thanks to the organisers for putting it on, and to everyone involved for making it such a productive and fun day!

Climbing Cracks in China and Canada

By Logan Barber



Bouldering on Wookie and the Mad Hatter (V7) at Wilyaberup

Last year was a huge year for me. I didn't climb the quantity of previous years in Europe but the quality, difficulty and significance of the routes I did or tried was at a much higher level than normal for me. Previous years I was happy when I achieved a hundred routes 24 or harder, this year I was happy with 3 while being close to a fourth. The difference was that I got a little bored with just another sport route and climbing at a level that I feel is starting to become very average. I wanted to make an impact and do something significant.

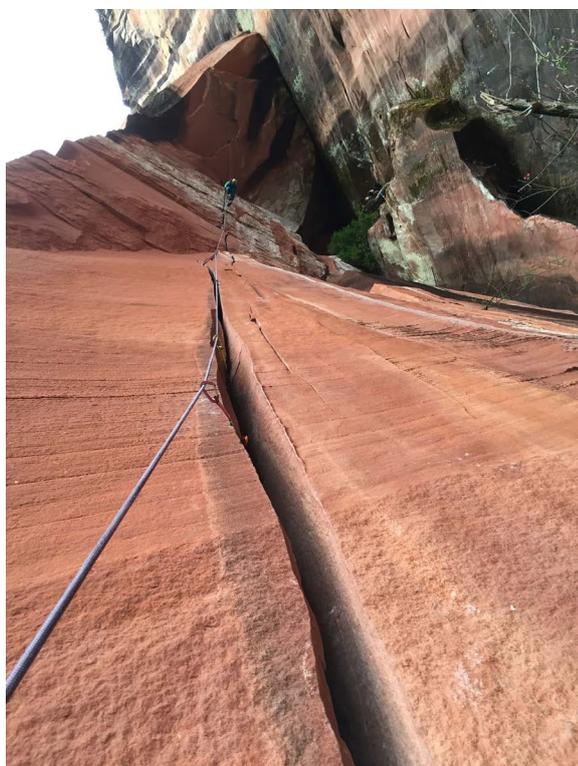
Since I am by no means climbing at the elite level that many European and some North American climbers are at I would have to play to my strengths to achieve my goals. I don't have an issue getting on adventurous routes in

random locations and I am persistent. I've also spent enough time travelling and hanging out in random huts in the middle of nowhere that I feel completely comfortable doing so. Liming in China was a perfect fit for me and contained two of the most obvious inspiring lines just calling out to be climbed.

The Firewall (5.13d) and The Honeycomb Dome (5.13d) are visible from the main street that runs through the town just beckoning people to climb them. The fact that they are difficult just adds to their awe-inspiring nature. I had three trips to Liming during the year to climb these two routes as well as the previous hardest route Air China (5.13d R). I felt The Firewall and Honeycomb Dome were significantly harder than Air China but I don't



The arete of Air China (5.13c), Liming



Looking up at The Firewall (5.13+), Liming

believe they are 5.14 material so I have opted instead for suggesting a downgrade to Air China to 5.13c. In fact I was actually pretty confused that I would suddenly be climbing these grades so fast when previously as with Punks in The Gym (32) I had taken much longer. Was I just a lot better on less height dependent cracks? To figure this out I booked a ticket to the hardest crack I knew of, The Cobra Crack (5.14b), in Squamish, Canada.

It turns out Cobra Crack being granite instead of sandstone is quite different. It has reasonable good pods for finger jams they just happen to be a long way apart! There went my 'cracks not being reachy' theory. I knew all about the gains training on a route can give and learning all the subtleties of minor body position changes so I committed to trying the route anyway. I told myself failing on Cobra was more of an achievement than doing a swag of other climbs. After two months I still couldn't do the moves on demand off a top rope. Surprisingly I could do the crux mono undercling move reasonably easily compared to a couple of large reaches between jams that others found no issue with. In the third month minor changes to my beta and suddenly I was running laps through the crux on a top rope. I led it from the ground and stuck the undercling mono crux falling off on the top out. I had led it clean to the top from way below here so I knew it was only a matter of shots now. Then the rain came. My final two weeks in Canada were a washout.

I am now in the middle of a period of time back in Perth. Two months till I leave again to try and finish the Cobra off. I thought I would train hard and get to a whole new level so that my goals would be easy this year. Instead I am managing little soft tissue injuries, which are holding me back a bit. I comfort myself by thinking I was strong enough last year and to do it I just can't go backwards. After the Cobra Crack I'll be heading down to Yosemite for some more El Capitan adventures and then onwards into the desert to discover more about hard sandstone crack climbing and whether it suits me or not.

2016 AGM Report

By Dena Rao and Kate Swain

CAWA AGM and adjourned AGM

Not satisfied with having just one Annual General Meeting (AGM), we had a couple of goes at it this year. The first attempt on 22 February 2016 saw us falling short of quorum (minimum number of members required to be present either physically or by proxy form to conduct business). An adjourned AGM was held successfully on 14 March 2016.

The Claytons AGM entertainment went well, with Mike Law giving a stellar presentation on how not to survive your youth. Regaling us with tall stories and photos of awful sticky-less boots, ball-squishing harnesses and average protection, Mike's talk gave us an insight into how hard core the older generation were and how spoiled we are today by the delights of modern equipment. From the Blue Mountains to Arapiles and even the Sydney sea cliffs, Mike took us on an adventure in subtle understatement of his youth.

The annual AGM Photo Competition saw a variety of places, people, scenery, action and outfits all round. See the article on the winning photos later in this Western Climber. There were some extremely generous prizes donated by City Summit, The Hangout and Rockface. Shoes, helmets, a rope and several gift vouchers were given to the winning photographers.

The adjourned AGM was all about conducting the necessary yearly formalities. The current member total was 239 as compared to 226 at the same time last year. The 2015 committee year highlights were extensive and included:

- Mike Law clinics
- Many CAWA trips
- Gym crashes
- Social events: the Winter Dinner, the Christmas BBQ at Blackwall Reach
- External coaching including Mike

Law clinics and external training such as the Adventure out training and vertical rescue training.

- CAWA run training for members
- A general increase in recognition achieved of CAWA as a peak body and continuing development of positive relationships with land managers.
- Western Climber editions

In general, the focus for the last year has been on providing training to facilitate the development of safe climbing practices and streamlining access.

In regards to access (access to outdoor crags) which are mostly in National Parks or State government managed land (managed by Department of Parks and Wildlife (DPaW, previously DEC, previously CALM), there was a strong push by the committee on securing a more consistent approach to accessing DPaW managed land. The main policy documents that governs this are Policy 18 (Policy Statement 18) and individual park management plans. PS 18 governs recreational activities as well as tourism and visitor services on DPaW managed land. DPaW recognises that this document requires updating, but they are very under resourced, so this is not likely to occur soon. CAWA currently has a good working relationship with DPaW and so we expect that there will be consultation as part of the review process when the time comes.

There are many challenges with managing access in each area. There are many different personalities across DPaW; they're worried about litigation; different regions work slightly differently and with variable resources. A further complication is Aboriginal heritage. Overall it is a progression of building relationships to further climbing in new areas and keeping access in existing ones. However, there are other land

managers to contend with, for example local councils, which are a very different kettle of fish. Each have their own approach and local council isn't dealt with very often (usually only mostly when first negotiating access or if something goes wrong). For example, Wallcliffe, just outside Margaret River is on local council land and a local law was passed banning climbing on cliff faces without any consultation with CAWA (we found out later).

Esperance: Lucky Bay access has been difficult and variable. There was nothing formal in place to allow climbers access. Now there is. If you want to go, you need to send in a notification of intent to climb. No further bolting is allowed without permission. If anyone has any problems, please report them back to CAWA so they can be dealt with. These terms and conditions can be renegotiated if required.

Eaglestone Rock: The developers did the right thing and asked the local council for permission to access and develop Eaglestone, which they were granted. However, the boulders are on DPaW managed land, not local council land. The local council has installed a drop toilet there and also advertised camping there, however, it has transpired that it is not their jurisdiction. When issues arose (i.e. DPaW found out), and CAWA got involved, we had a happy ending because DPaW recognised that the original developers had asked permission, which went a long way to an acceptance of camping and climbing at the location. It is however an A-Class Nature Reserve, so please be mindful and respectful of the area. Respecting a leave no trace approach as far as possible (keeping the area clean, stick to existing tracks, and camp sites) will facilitate continued access.

Kalbarri: Endangered Black-flanked Rock Wallabies have been rediscovered in the gorge, near the Coriander wall (adjacent to the Promenade). Wallabies were thought extinct from the gorge as they hadn't been seen there for the last 20 years. This has resulted in a ban to camping in the gorge below the Promenade. Negotiations with DPaW have allowed us to continue climbing there, and they have opened a clear area to camp near the Z-Bend carpark. CAWA are still in negotiations with DPaW so watch the CAWA website for more details as

they develop.

Wallcliffe: The new South-West climbing guidebook author was checking access issues before publishing the new guidebook and came across a new ban on climbing cliffs in the local by-laws. The cliff is on local council land and has always been an area of contention. We are uncertain as to what prompted the change in local by-laws but historically the main objectors to climbing were local tour guide operators and a previous owner of Wallcliffe House. This is a difficult situation, but not the first time it's happened, and CAWA did previously successfully secure access to this area. This situation is yet to be dealt with, and in the meantime, climbers are asked not to climb there.

Quarries: DPaW has increased the number of people allowed in on a single day. They have highlighted that there is still an issue with people sharing the codes and not booking. DPaW are monitoring this and at the moment, taking a soft approach and talking to people they catch without a booking. Be aware that our actions are being monitored.

Also, be mindful that anything that is posted on line may be read by land managers and others and can be viewed in a bad light. At the moment, CAWA has an excellent working relationship with DPaW and other land managers for climbing access and we want to keep it that way.

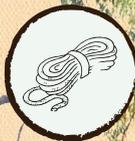
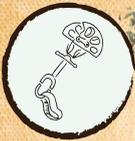
CAWA has been focusing on education, with promoting safe practices and providing training opportunities, through internal and external sources. Members looking to improve their skills are giving positive feedback on the training being provided.

Bolting issues! There have been debates at various times over the last few years about how and if CAWA should be involved in re-bolting routes. It was explained that direct involvement is considered not appropriate due to liability and insurance considerations. CAWA's role is to protect the association (and the current and past committee members who volunteer their time). This includes responsible financial management of the association.

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Post AGM note: This issue has been carried forward with the new committee. Stay tuned for an update.

CAWA's role is to promote responsible bolting and new route development, as per the code of ethics posted on the CAWA website. A short presentation by Ross Weiter during this section highlighted some obvious and not so obvious issues with recent bolting seen around the state. The aim of the presentation was to increase awareness of and discussion about these issues. Ross thanked Neil Gledhill, the 'angel' of climbing because he's spent lots of time and effort and money re-bolting old routes and fixing new ones. There is no glory in this, there is no new route, no name in a guidebook, just a lot of time, effort and money so that other people can walk up to a route and climb it without worrying about their safety. If you would like to know more about bolting, speak to Ross, Neil or Kate Swain.

Some 'unsightly' u-bolts have been placed at Monkey Rock right next to the Bibbulmun track. This goes against the CAWA code of bolting to minimise visual impact, so the committee proposed an amendment to the bolting code. The following was voted in at the adjourned AGM: 'U-bolts are not to be placed into granite under any circumstances', at point seven of the code.

Western Climber: It was voted by those present that all future editions should be made public. This would not have a time lag between CAWA members and general public members, it was voted in that the future editions would be published on the CAWA website.

Life Member recommendation and recognition: Dena Rao. Peter Thomas spoke to this and highlighted the significant effort, time and contribution that Dena

has made to CAWA. She has served on the CAWA committee for six years in addition to assisting with various projects prior to that. Commencing in 2005 with a role on the sub-committee tasked with formulating a submission for the Cape Range Management Plan, she spent two years as vice president (2007 – 2009), followed by two years as president (2009 – 2011), then had three years off and has now spent the last two years as president. In that time she's secured access and built a good working relationship with land managers, worked hard to improve education and training and secured insurance that allows CAWA to run more events and activities. It was mentioned that there were some conflicts that arose along the way, but also recognition that this commonly occurs in associations and does not detract from the level of service and achievements, which are significant. The vote was passed with a strong majority to admit Dena as a life member of CAWA for her significant contributions.

A new committee was elected, with ten members in total, acknowledging an allowance by the constitution for some actions to be delegated to non-members. The committee can appoint new committee members up to four times during the year, should the need arise.

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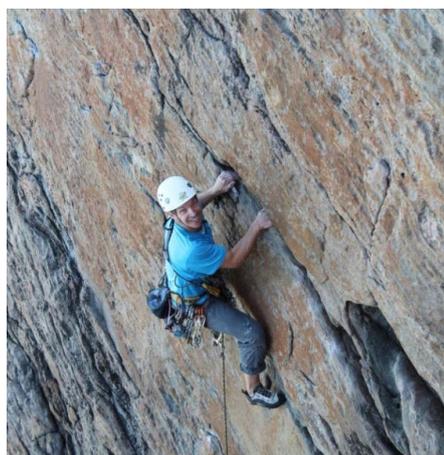


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Your CAWA Committee Members 2016

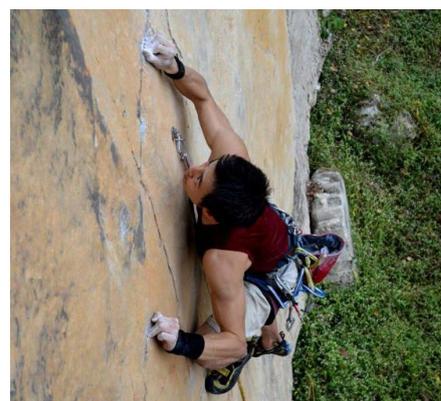


Mark Edele (President)

Growing up in Bavaria, my father trained me as a rather classical alpinist, with heavy boots, tying directly into the rope, climbing according to the “three-points-fixed” and “the-leader-does-not-fall” rules. In my teens I got instead interested in bouldering and sports climbing, until a 7c in Ceuse dislocated my shoulder. This injury in my early 20s ended my first climbing career. After shoulder reconstruction and two decades of marathon running, triathlon, and bike racing I returned to the rocks in 2011. I joined CAWA in the same year and served as treasurer in 2015. These days I climb up to the low 20s (on a good day) and prefer trad climbing to sport routes. I am married and have a daughter, Anna, a seven year old crusher and CAWA member.

Brian Tan (Secretary)

I was bitten by the climbing bug about 16 years ago and have since tried a little bit of everything from alpine, ice, sport, trad, big walls, bouldering, deep water soloing to route setting. Since becoming a father recently, I’ve found myself to be more of a connoisseur of indoor climbing due to convenience and time constraints. With a never ending list of things to improve and learn, coupled with plans/dreams for more trips, the motivation to climb is always pretty high. Climbing has taken me to some great places and brought some wonderful people into my life, so I’m hoping that by being part of CAWA I can give back a little something to help the cause.



Kate Bailue (Treasurer)

I first began rock climbing 4 years ago after moving to Perth looking for a new outdoor activity to take up my spare time. I am originally from Melbourne where from the tender age of 18 months was in the snowfields skiing, spending many winters growing up in the mountains. I instantly took to rock climbing combining my favorite passions of the mountains, rocks and gymnastics. In the same year I joined CAWA, looking to meet other climbers. Since then, I have spent countless hours outdoors at all the popular WA climbing crags as well as the climbing gyms around Perth. Most of my recent holidays have been centered around climbing, where I have climbed in some stunning areas of New Zealand, South America, Alaska and Thailand. Recently I have found an interest in alpine climbing, summiting peaks in Bolivia and New Zealand and finding a love of ice climbing. Closer to home I have been working on my trad skills down south, and don’t mind a bit of slab for variety.

Dirk Klicker (Ordinary Member)

I took up climbing more than 20 years ago. In the last 5 years my focus was more on mountaineering and ice climbing. I have climbed in NZ, UK, Japan and Nepal and culminating with a failed attempt on Everest North Col in 2015. Thereafter I have turned my focus back to rock climbing preferring to climb outdoors and trad. I still have my sights set on 7 Summits and will head off to Elbrus in August. Anyone who wants to come e-mail me. I joined the CAWA Committee in 2016. I run a small law firm in Perth and have recently had twins, who will both be climbers, but do not tell my wife.



Nathan Cole (Ordinary Member)

I have been on the CAWA committee since mid 2015 and joined the committee as I wanted to get actively involved in improving climbing for WA climbers. I have many ideas to help improve climbing in WA. I love all types of climbing, however my main focus is traditional climbing with a mix up of mountaineering. My future plans are to try and fit some more ice climbing in. I have been lucky enough to climb at many places around the world including United Kingdom, South Africa, USA and Canada. I climbs almost exclusively outdoors unless dragged kicking and screaming indoors by mates. You will find me outdoor most weekends, even if it's raining you may find me in the Porongurups. Plans in the future are North face of Matterhorn in winter and Federation peak in summer. Enjoys a pint or 10 after a days' climbing or even if I haven't been climbing. P.S. I think rock climbing is awesome.

Gareth Wood (Ordinary Member)

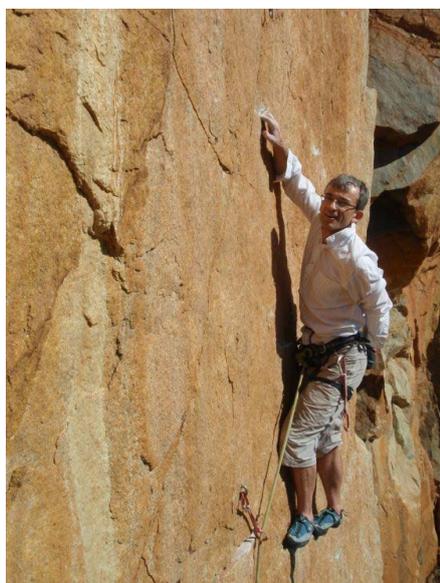
I was born then played cricket for 20+ years until some friends took me to Rockface. When I saw that girls climb too, I weighed this up with the fact that girls did not play cricket back then and decided to quit cricket for climbing. Lucky for me climbing is also way more rad than cricket. I've travelled many, many places for climbing including France, Germany, Kalymnos and South America with a trip to Venezuela planned for later this year. Of all the places I've been Kalbarri is my favourite. You will find me there at least every 2nd weekend June-September. At the moment I primarily boulder with a bit of sport and easy trad but the perfect climbing, to me, is steep bouldery moves, traditionally protected, in a beautiful setting.



Remi Vignals (Ordinary Member)



I was first introduced to climbing in 2004 as a university student in Adelaide, South Australia. I was immediately hooked and bought my harness and shoes the following week. My enthusiasm continued and I found myself helping to create the University of South Australia Rock Climbing Club. After completing my studies and finding a “real job” in IT in Perth, most weekends presented themselves as a chance to climb locally, but also in Margaret River, Eaglestone Rock, Pinjarra, etc. Every public holiday became an opportunity to head to crags further in WA (Albany, Peak Charles, Kalbarri, Esperance and more...). Every accrued leave meant a ticket booked interstate (Arapiles, Grampians, Tasmania, Frog Buttress) or overseas (Yosemite, France, Spain). Climbing has slowly but surely been taking over my life. First, I gave up working in IT in 2014 and ended up working as a route setter. I have since also given up other volunteering work to join the CAWA committee for 2016.



Peter Thomas (Ordinary Member)

Peter Thomas is 29 and has been climbing since 1976, when it was ok to take kids climbing at school. After 1 year of occasional seconding and top roping easy climbs, the following year I was handed a rope and 5 nuts, and told to lead the climbs for the following year’s kids. This was in the UK, where I then did uni and climbed as much as possible. All trad, of course. Yes, the weather’s crap, so there was a lot more beer drinking than climbing. I also climbed a few times in the European Alps, and winter climbing in Scotland. Since then I’ve been cragging in Europe, climbing in Oman, and climbing around Perth and WA since 1999. I’ve made a few trips over east (but not nearly enough), a few easy mountain climbs in Europe in 2012 and a few Dolomites climbs in 2014 (including the Via Classica on S. Face of Marmolada). Currently thinking of projecting something challenging.... as soon as I can get younger and stronger!

Matt West (Assistant Editor)

I am by a long long way the least experienced climber here, having only been climbing for about a year now. So far the best climbing experience I’ve had would be deep water soloing in Mallorca last year, which was pretty awesome. I’m studying Professional Writing at Curtin, so the opportunity to edit this magazine is a perfect melding of my two passions.



Kate Swain (Western Climber Editor)

Both my parents climb, which is exactly why I didn't want to do it, till I met a boy on a CAWA trip to Albany. That was in 1998. I'd been dragged along with my sister and was bored and avoiding all things climbing, but suddenly became very interested in climbing when I met Tom. I started out going to the gym once a week with him and ended up getting the bug. I got a job at the Rockface with Gareth (who now owns the Hangout) and met some great people through that gym. When Tom moved to Sydney I decided that I quite liked climbing, and I kept at it, quitting Uni after the first year to travel the world to climb. I ended up in Bristol then Scotland and travelled to the Peak District a lot. I went to Scotland with my Dad travelled around Europe a bit. I worked to earn enough to keep travelling. I went to Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France. I learnt to boulder. It took me about a month to do my first 6a in Font. After Europe, I went to the States. I got a job with Black Diamond, picking and packing their equipment. It wasn't exciting, but I got cheap gear. I led my first ice climb, as it was melting, and I didn't die. I wasn't taken with it. I travelled around a bit while I was there and went to the Gunks, Yosemite, Red Rocks, Indian Creek (got chased out by a snow storm) Joe's Valley and Zion amongst others. When I got back to Perth I started Uni again and struggled with that and climbing. Many friends said I wouldn't graduate. I went on trips a lot. I ticked Kalbarri Gold that year. I had one of my best trips ever in 2007. I spent 6 months dirt bagging and climbing in the western USA and Thailand with Neil. We did a LOT of crack climbing. I also got my first taste of the mountains when we did the East Buttress of Mt Whitney (5.7). The following year I graduated and got a proper job. Since then Neil and I have had a few adventures in between a full time job as an Environmental Engineer. We've bolted lots of new routes, rebolted some old ones, discovered new crags, ticked a few more routes, done some mountaineering and survived, and generally had a good time. I've just survived shoulder surgery to fix many years of climbing abuse, and am back and climbing again. I seem to always be injured, but what's life without a little challenge. I love our state and our unusual climbing. For all my travelling, we still have some of the best climbing around (I might be slightly biased). I've been Western Climber editor for 4 years now, but I've also been an ordinary member, Vice President and Acting President for CAWA. I'm always looking for new photos, articles and ideas for the Western Climber as well as new lines and new places to visit to climb.



2016 Photo Competition Winners

Climbing in Western Australia 1st Place



Gareth Wood on *KGB* (26) at Wilyabrup. Photographer: Sam Jones

2nd Place



Sebastian Fuller on *Keith Goes Blank* (15) at Kalbarri.
Photographer: Remi Vignals

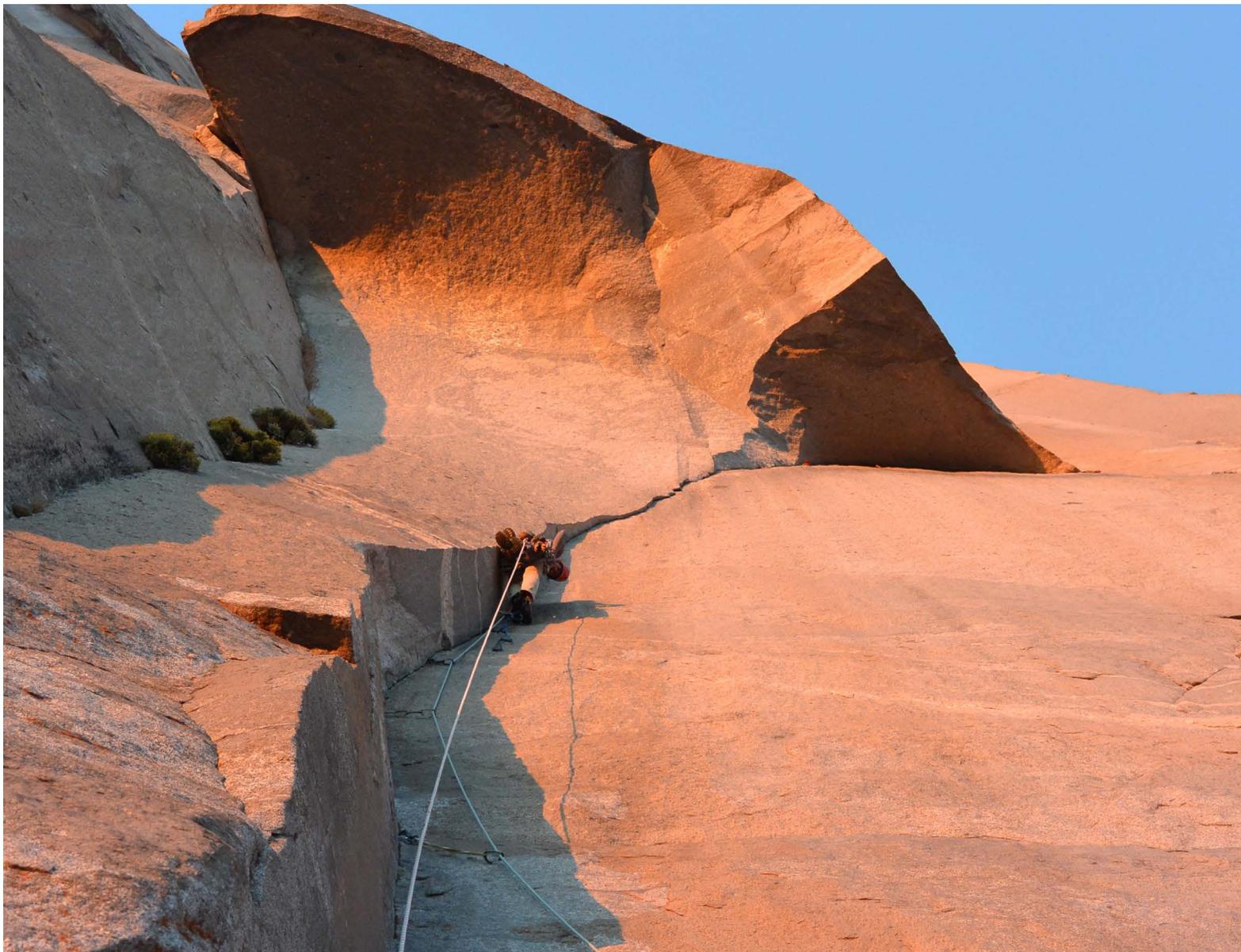
3rd Place



Trent Potts on new route *He Won't Make Twenty* at Stirling Range National Park. Photographer: Remi Vignals

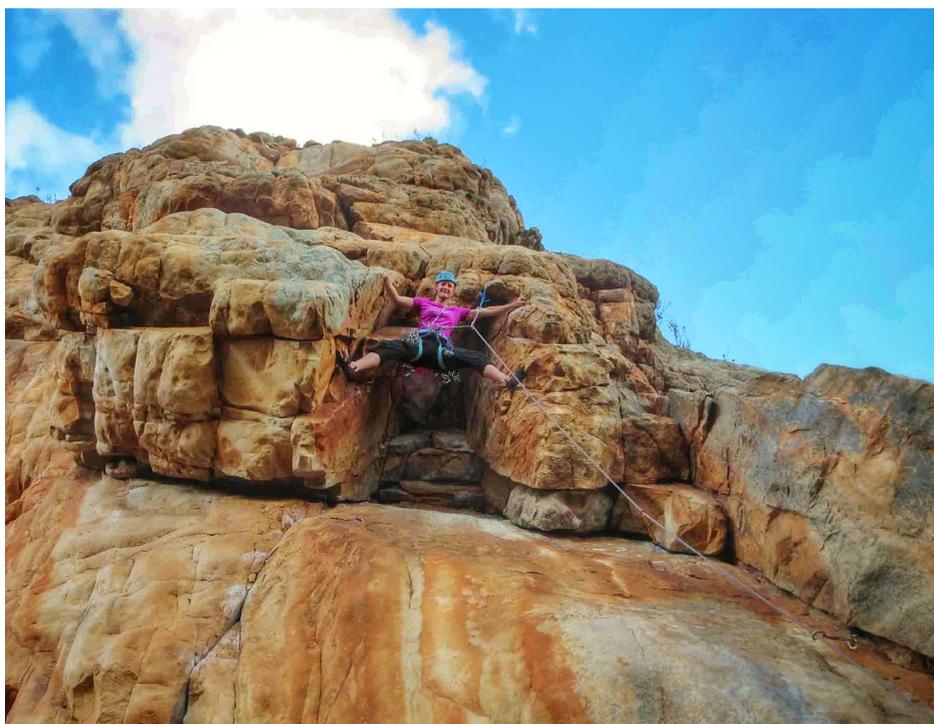
2016 Photo Competition Winners

Climbing Everywhere Else 1st Place



Trent Potts heading up the Great Roof, The Nose, El Capitan, Yosemite, USA. Photographer: Olly Morell

2nd Place



Kate Swain leading *Death Row* (18) at Mt Arapiles, VIC.
Photographer: Chris Swain

3rd Place



Akira on *L'utra Mia* (28) at Les Calanques, Marseille, FRANCE.
Photographer: Remi Vignals

2016 Photo Competition Winners



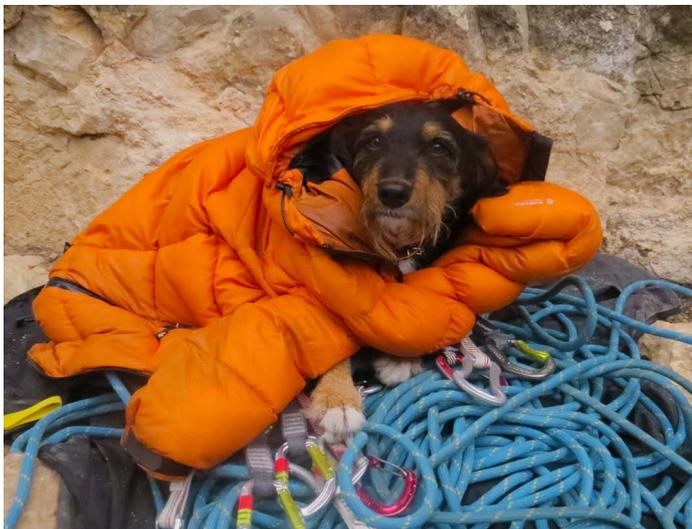
Best Bum Shot

Rick Allen seconding the first pitch of Resignation (15), Mt Arapiles, VIC.
Photographer: Kate Swain



Best Action Shot

Trent Potts on the Lost Arrow Spire highline.
Photographer: Olly Morell



Best Climbing Outfit

Rosie keeping warm in the Spanish winter of Suirana, SPAIN. Photographer: Remi Vignals

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Kalbarri Trip Report

By Sam Jones



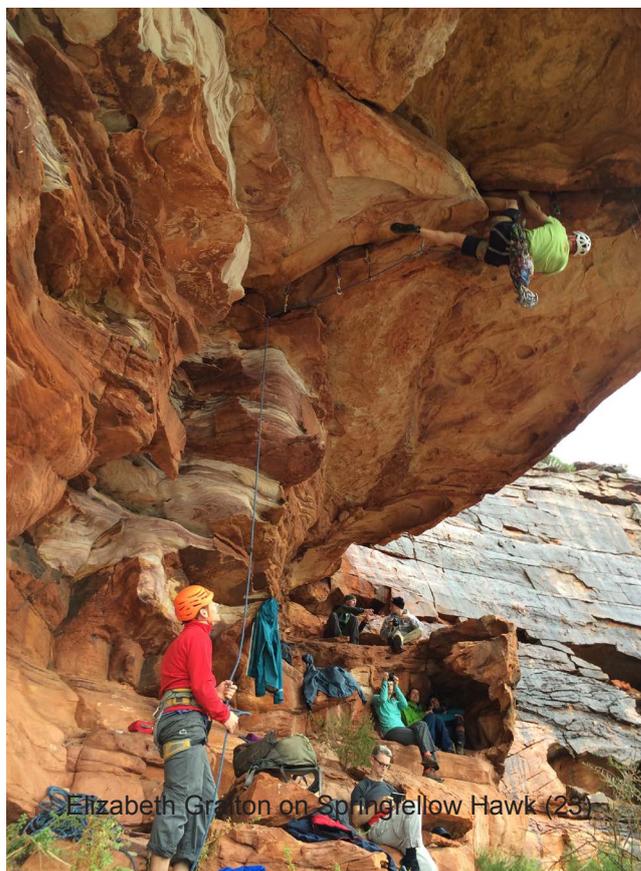
The June long weekend played host to the CAWA Kalbarri trip. Six or seven hours North of Perth, the gorges near Kalbarri are a climber's playground. Staying at Murchison River Station, most of us arrived Friday night. After some introductions, dinner and a few drinks we retired to get some sleep before the impending crush-fest the following day. In anticipation of road closures due to "rain", we were awoken by an overly enthusiastic Frenchman announcing we should leave earlier than planned to ensure we didn't get locked out. Despite best efforts, we were thwarted at the turnoff, as the ranger had closed the road after the monsoonal* rain the previous night.

The disappointment was palpable and we stood huddled in the deluge as the road to the Z Bend washed away almost before our eyes.* We discussed plans such as "just driving to Exmouth" and "just hiking to the promenade from the station". Remi showed some great local knowledge and suggested we could get some shelter at Hawk's Head. The rain eased as we hiked to the crag from the car park. After ten minutes we were standing under an overhang split by a classy roof rack, dramatically overlooking the gorge. Remi lead the roof and kindly set up an anchor at the top so all the others could try the climb and get some time on a rope. Using a rope system neither Hugo or myself could understand, the others took turns in trying the route. As everyone watched Elizabeth make solid progress on her attempt, Hugo and I took a look around the corner to recon some possible new routes.

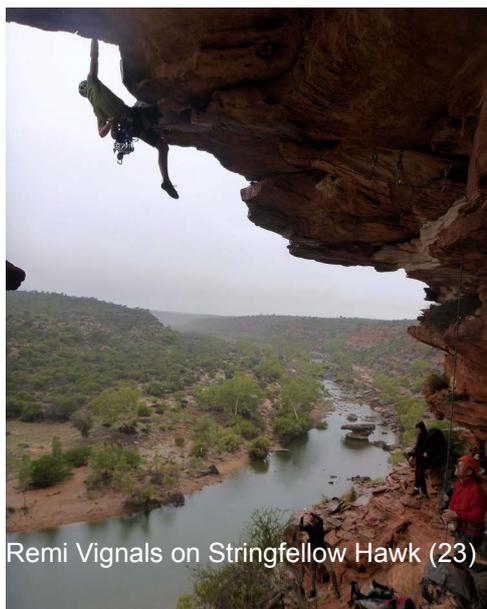
A solid hand crack with a lunch box sized block neatly wedged in stood out, as did a fun looking corner framing the side of the crag. After Remi declaring the crack looked "like about a grade 10", Hugo and I both backed down from the first move as it looked a lot harder than Remi's suggestion. After building some courage, we faced up to the route again. Extensive time and effort was spent working, developing and cleaning the line. Sweat poured from our brows and blood ran from our scraped hands as we shivered in the cold. The climb captured our imagination. A line of perfection that was inevitably ours. We could taste the first ascent, our place in history, our names recorded in fame, the glory of being the first. Little did we know – as we toiled in the rain – a scheme was forming below.



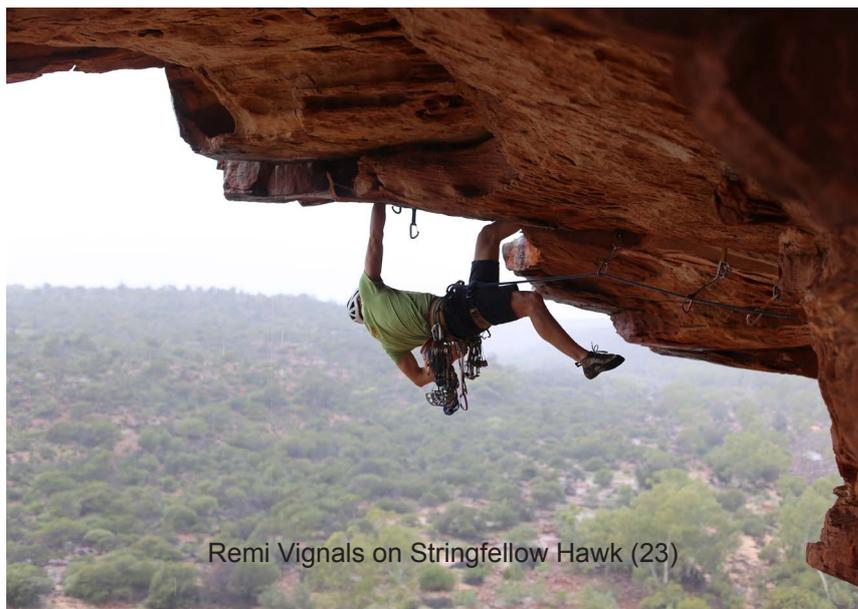
Elizabeth Gralton on Springfellow Hawk (23)



Elizabeth Gralton on Springfellow Hawk (23)



Remi Vignals on Stringfellow Hawk (23)



Remi Vignals on Stringfellow Hawk (23)

Our president and our guide, the very people meant to be the embodiment of ethics and trust, were plotting. As Hugo and I rested and became distracted by the elaborate double double bowlines (otherwise known as a “Dodecahedron Follow Through”) people were using to tie in while trying the roof crack, Mark and Remi sneaked to the start of the unclimbed route. Before we knew, Remi was pulling the crux and as these European Thieves topped out, a dark chapter in climbing history ended.*

Kim, Elizabeth, Hannah, Cristelle, Delphine, Malan, Joel, Squeak, Mark and Hugo all made great progress on the roof crack. Sharma screams and shouts of “Venga” echoed down the gorge. Kim taught Malan the Chris Sharma, “Sssaaaaa!”, which when shouted removes a grade from the climb. Malan quickly took to its usage a little too enthusiastically and it punctuated each difficult step while hiking out of the gorge. Back in the carpark, Remi suggested we atone for our sins by completing 10 push-ups for each swear word said. Malan’s incessant swearing likely meant upwards of 500 push-ups for her, so we settled on ten each before driving back to camp.

Back at the station we caught up with Woody and Erin, who had arrived that day. We were introduced to Woody’s medieval warmup device as well as some interesting pre-bedtime announcements. Most of us had an early night and the next morning the ever enthusiastic and giggly combination of Cristelle and Hannah played stark contrast to a notably quiet and absent

personality who was still in their tent feeling under the weather. No one was in any particular rush as we assumed the road would be closed again. We had a leisurely breakfast and watched as Hannah made notes on birds and educated us on “twitching” and some the local species. As we relaxed, an excited French girl sped through the camp waving her arms out the car window and beeping her horn – the road to the Z Bend was open and the mood quickly shifted to excitement as we quickly packed up and drove from camp.

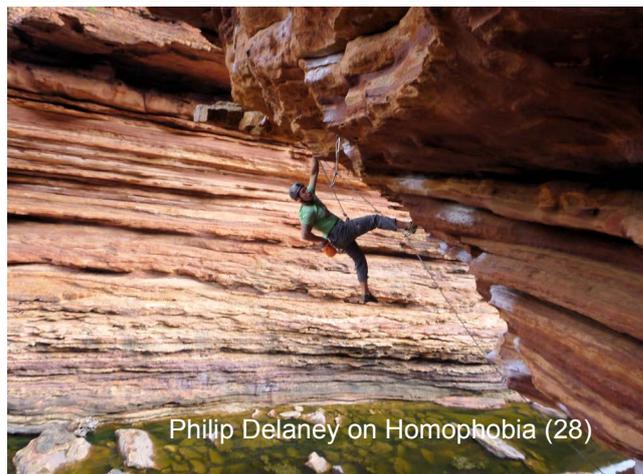
Arriving at the Promenade around 1100, we were greeted by other climbers, who had stayed in the carpark and thus avoided the road closures. The weather eased further and hush whispers spread through the group as some wind and even some sun promised to dry the rock out. As Cristelle and Hannah giggled their way up She Magic, all watched on in awe as Remi made several attempts at Kalbarri Gold.

This world class roof crack may be one of the country’s finest test pieces, however it was rendered insignificant by another, more subtle, test piece nestled quietly in The Pit. Shrouded in mystery, this off-width crack guards the corner of the area like a quiet sentinel. Unsure of the grade, Hugo battled upward and eventually topped out, feeling confident the grade “must be around 20”.

Kim, Malan and Squeak all tried Fuck the Law before we hiked out ahead of Remi and Delphine who stayed for a few more shots at Kalbarri Gold. Later that night, as we sat around the fire back at camp, the mood grew light and the



Sam Jones on an un-named route at Hawk's Head



Philip Delaney on Homophobia (28)

conversation quickly devolved. We learnt of someone's penchant for branding his women and Joel declared a rigid line in society between those who simply toast their marshmallows and those who set them on fire. As the night took a comical tone, no one was aware of the impending bombshell. As Hugo spoke of his struggle with the off-width climb that day, few noticed a smirk growing on Remi's face as he crushingly declared the climb was indeed "only a grade 15". Outraged, Hugo stated the climb must be "the hardest 15 in the world" and several days later we don't think he has recovered from this controversy.

Our last morning played host to the greatest mental and physical struggle yet – packing up Malan's pop-up tent. After Remi, Malan and I all failed to figure it out, we settled for simply folding it poorly and jamming it in the car. Kim said farewell to the baby Llama she had made

friends with at the station and Joel, Malan, Kim and myself left for Perth. Mark and Elizabeth went back and climbed the classic Keith Goes Blank and Remi made an amazing achievement by sending his long running project of Kalbarri Gold. As I hear it told, there was a hush as everyone watched him hang off the penultimate hold, before cheer erupted as he bumped to the final jug.

A big thank you goes to CAWA for organizing the trip and furthermore to Remi for his patience and effort. The campground at Murchison River Station is very well thought out and thoroughly recommended. Now we sit at work with resolves to train harder and return stronger as the scars, bruises and sore muscles serve as our reminder of an awesome weekend.

*may not reflect actual events. Heavy sarcasm intended.



In the foreground Lea climbing Super Funky (25) while Kim Jones climbs Fuck The Law (25) in the background.



JP Dumas on Busting Down the Door (26)



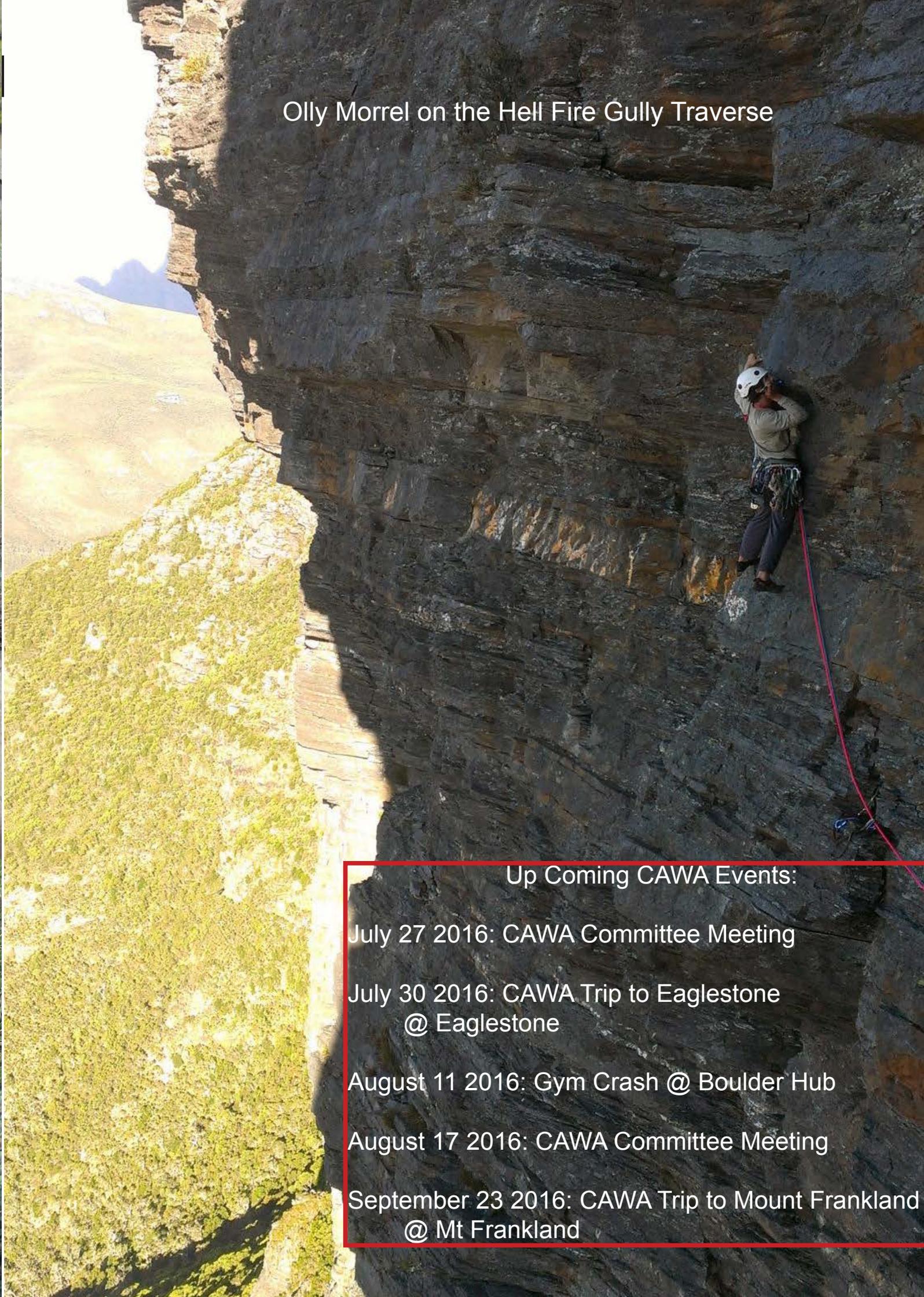
Paul Bolton on the Fifth Pitch of Hell Fire Gully. Photo by Jonas Hollingworth



Anissa Lapierre on Fuck The Law (25). Photo by Remi Vignals



Mac MacArthur and Chris Swain at Over The Hill. Photo by Ross Weiter



Olly Morrel on the Hell Fire Gully Traverse

Up Coming CAWA Events:

July 27 2016: CAWA Committee Meeting

July 30 2016: CAWA Trip to Eaglestone
@ Eaglestone

August 11 2016: Gym Crash @ Boulder Hub

August 17 2016: CAWA Committee Meeting

September 23 2016: CAWA Trip to Mount Frankland
@ Mt Frankland