

western
climber

**MONIQUE
IN WA**

Fall Factors
NZ Mountaineering
Christmas with CAWA
Jamie & Elliot do Europe
Wilyabrup In The Wet
Get Outdoors!

CONTENTS NOV 2013

up to date

- 03 CAWA Committee and Contacts
- 03 From the Editor
- 06 President's Report
- 05 Access and Development
- 13 Gym Locations
- 14 Off Belay
- 46 New Routes



- 16 Monique, Simon and Coco visit Kalbarri

features

- 08 Jamie and Elliot do Europe
- 16 Monique Forestier in Kalbarri
- 26 NZ Mountaineering
- 42 Wet in Wilyabrup

how-to

- 32 Fall Factors
- 38 Helmets and climbing
- 40 The Great Outdoors



- 08 The best crags in Europe

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



Welcome to the last edition of WC in 2013!

We're heading towards another awesome summer climbing season, with the warmer weather hitting us early. CAWA is now hosting pop up trips on top of our regular trips so keep an eye out on the Facebook page for announcements!

In this issue of the WC, we are lucky to have a guest writer in Monique Forestier, describing her trip to Kalbarri and Margs earlier in 2013. It is wonderful to be able to showcase Simon Carter's photography as well. As a fellow photographer, I've been a fan for a long time!

We also welcome some new contributors to

the mag which is fantastic! We are always looking for articles and accompanying photos, so next time you do a climbing trip, especially interstate or overseas, please email and tell us all about it.

We would love you to come along to CAWA's Christmas BBQ on Saturday 7th December. See more info in the 'Off Belay' section of the mag.

As this is the last edition for this year, have a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we'll see you again in Feb/March for the first edition of the Western Climber in 2014!

CAWA committee

PO Box 623 Subiaco WA 6904 e. cawa@climberswa.asn.au w. www.climberswa.asn.au

the team

PRESIDENT: Tony Brebner e. tonyb@climberswa.asn.au
 VICE PRESIDENT: Anthony Brandis e. anthonyb@climberswa.asn.au
 SECRETARY: Kris Poole e. krisp@climberswa.asn.au
 TREASURER/
 MEMBERSHIPS: Kylie West e. kyliew@climberswa.asn.au

members

ACCESS/DEVELOPMENT: Kate Swain e. kates@climberswa.asn.au
 GYM CRASHES: Mark Kleinman e. markk@climberswa.asn.au
 Trevor Peter e. trevorp@climberswa.asn.au
 Blair Cafar e. blairc@climbers.wa.asn.au
 Neil Humphries e. neilh@climberswa.asn.au
 Jonas Hollingworth e. jonash@climberswa.asn.au
 EVENTS: Anthony Brandis e. anthonyb@climbers.wa.asn.au
 YOUTH REP: Rachel Wheeler e. rachelw@climberswa.asn.au

western climber

Allison Low e. editor@climberswa.asn.au
 Mandy Bowler e. editor@climberswa.asn.au



COVER PHOTO:

Monique Forestier at Bob's Hollow, Margaret River.

PHOTO BY SIMON CARTER



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.



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 1976 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!

ACCESS & DEVELOPMENT

WRITER: Mandy Bowler EMAIL: mandyb@climberswa.asn.au




Wellington Dam has reopened for climbing...although it is hard to see what the changes are! Jonas and I headed down a few weekends ago and all we noticed were two new BBQs and a footpath joining the two shelters. Correct me if I'm wrong! Apparently that took five months. All's well that ends well however, and as always, Wellington Dam Quarry is a great fun place to climb (and picnic!), albeit with some challenging routes....for me anyway ;)

We also headed up to Kalbarri in the last school holidays in early October. After trying to figure out what the situation was with the roads to no avail, I managed to get in touch with the relevant authorities in Kalbarri on the Monday driving up. We were told the roads were open that day, but closed on the Tuesday as that would be the last day of construction. I guess I expected after the amount of time that has gone by, that the entire stretch would be bitumen. Alas, only a few km of the bumpy sandy/gravelly track into Z bend lookout was now sealed. We headed in just before 5pm on the Monday (after registering as hikers so we could camp in the gorge) and caught the most glorious sunset from the Lookout.

We knew the place would be closed up to tourists on the Tuesday so we enjoyed two days of incredibly peaceful climbing and camping. I felt quite out of my depth climbing-wise, but simply enjoyed the amazing surrounds. We decided to head out to civilisation on the Wednesday and were stopped by DEC on the way out of the lookout, as the road was still closed to tourists and would not be reopened until the Thursday! They pointed us in the direction of a 4WD track to get back to the main road, which was much more fun.

We camped the rest of the time at Murchison House Station just down the road, a much better alternative I believe, to one of the caravan parks and only headed into town to get supplies. Heading back into the gorge on Thursday, it seems only a little bit more had been sealed. I do wonder if they are going to finish the whole stretch? It seems strange to only do a segment of the track. We will see!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hi all companions and climbers. I'm back from my "Camino" across Spain, and frankly, in a better place than I was when I left. Although it's now November 2013, what's been happening since the last amazing issue of the Western Climber in May-Jun 2013?

I'm sure you will all agree that the CAWA Western Climber continues to deliver great and inspiring stories, news and related features on our band of climbing enthusiasts in Western Australia. Great thanks to the efforts of our editors both current and past.

While I was away, Anthony Brandis (CAWA Vice President) handled the President's role and made sure I didn't escape with the password to the CAWA bank account.....Thanks Ant!

Winter has been unkind to us climbers this year, if you are, like me, fond of climbing in the heat and sunshine, but morose and moody when it's raining and cold every day. The CAWA Eaglestone Rock trip was well attended, and the climbing was, as always, varied and challenging. Unfortunately we had to cancel the Mount Frankland trip as the weather did not work for us this year.

Anthony Brandis hooked up with Simon Carter and Monique Forester when they headed over to WA for a "pop-up" climbing shoot. The effervescent Brian Tan and his cohort of climbing peers gave a demonstration of hard-core sports climbing in WA which was captured by Simon at Onsite Photography (www.onsight.com.au)

CAWA Gym Crashes continue to be good fun and good value now that CAWA has decided to provide FREE pizzas. Keep a look out for the email blasts, CAWA Web posts and the CAWA FB page feeds. Prizes were handed out at the last Gym Crash in October at PWR Urban Ascent where a couple of larrikins turned up in tights (again !!!) There are two more before the end of the year so get down to them and support your local rock wall!

Moving towards the Xmas holiday season we did have a limited attendance (I wonder why) at the October Willy's Pop-Up Climbing Trip, now called "The Wet Willy's Trip" – OK, it rained the whole time and although we managed a few climbs at Willyabrup in the rain, we opted for some time out of the rain. CAWA were invited to set up shop for the afternoon of Sunday 20 Oct at Climbing Naturaliste, Dunsborough (www.climbingnaturaliste.com.au). We were blown

away by the enthusiasm and talent at the indoor climbing centre. We met many great young climbers and were amazed with the family friendly pace and the vast number of small kids who swarmed over the walls! The routes are well set and tricky, so be warned. Thanks for your hospitality!

Unfortunately, the annual Albany/WCH trip will not be running this year as the property (Uncle Don's) where CAWA has been graciously provided with accommodation space in the past, is unavailable. We are already looking at booking sites elsewhere in 2014 to ensure the trip happens next year.

The regular CAWA Xmas BBQ this year is going to be a Get Together on Sat 7th December 2013 at Point Walter (same location) catered by the, now famous, Manuel (from Barcelona) who has provided his trademark Paellas and Tapas to CAWA members before. It's going to be a huge day with bouldering at Blackwall Reach, Slack Lining, two choices of Paella and Tapas (with water and soft drinks included, BYOA) for a cost of only \$15pp (significantly reduced by CAWA contribution), and a demonstration of "quadcopter" flying by Ant if conditions are right... Please make sure you drop us a line at cawa@climberswa.asn.au to allow us to cater properly by 3rd December.

Finally, I urge you to place a bookmark in your Calendar for the CAWA AGM coming up on Tuesday 11th February 2014.

This year, in line with presenting the CAWA Membership with the annual AGM highlights, we invite you to the State Library Theatre of WA in Northbridge at 7pm for a gala evening. It's free to all CAWA Members and it will showcase the year past for climbers in WA and the performance of your Committee, the eagerly anticipated annual CAWA Photography Competition, the nomination and enrolment of the new 2014 CAWA Committee, a showcase of next year's planning, and a climbing quiz with prizes and perhaps even a keynote speaker – or speakers ???

Yes folks, it will all be happening on Tuesday the 11th Feb – please block it out – It will be an awesome evening. You will receive a formal invitation in the post or via email and the Agenda will be published soon.

Just in case you didn't know, at each AGM in accordance with the constitution, the entire Committee is dissolved and a new Committee



WILYABRUP. PHOTO BY SIMON CARTER AT ONSIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY

is nominated for the continuing year. CAWA is YOUR Association. Every CAWA Member is encouraged to nominate for any of the roles available – look at the CAWA Web under Committee to see what positions, with their associated roles, are available.

If you feel moved to support CAWA or have the desire to make a difference on the Committee, or just want to help out as you can, you can nominate before the AGM by emailing cawa@climberswa.asn.au

All you need is the passion to do what you can to keep CAWA growing, a CAWA Member to second your nomination, and your nomination will go into the names for acceptance at the AGM – Or you can nominate on the night. If

you need any help to understand the process, or wish to discuss the roles, please don't hesitate to call or email me or contact any of the CAWA Committee at cawa@climberswa.asn.au

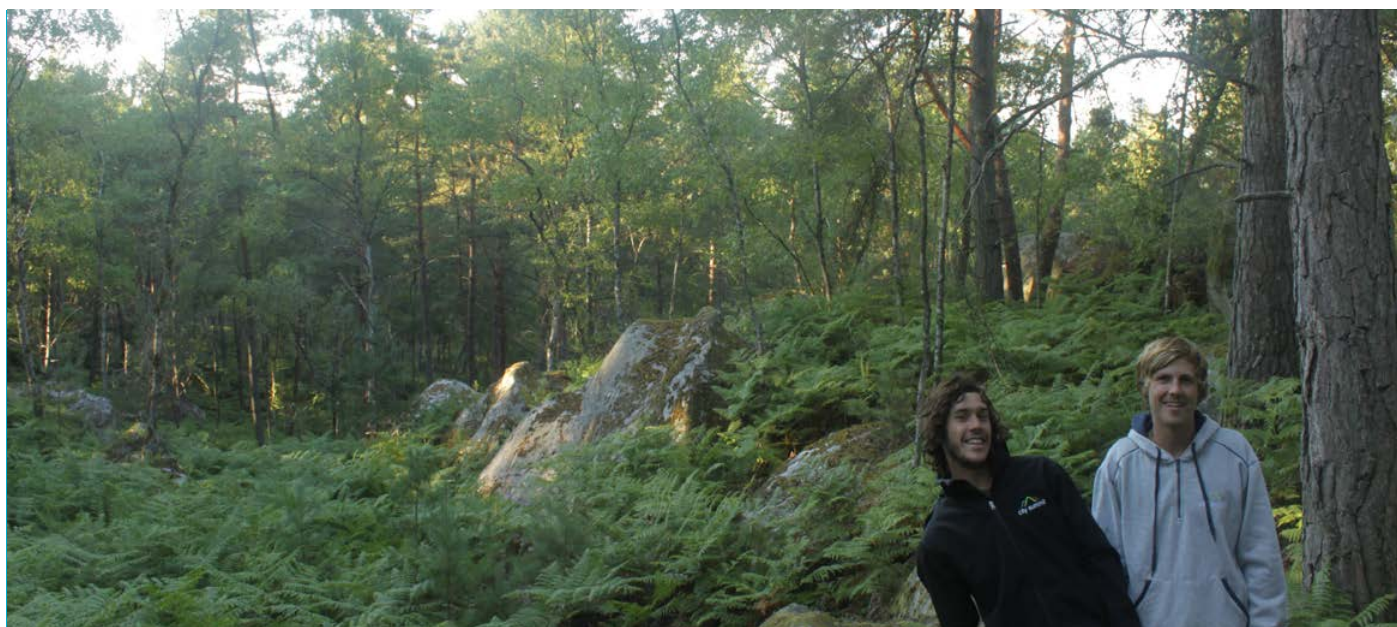
CAWA continues to be relevant and dynamic. It's roots are mature and its earliest days were crafted by the hard men of climbing who arrived, mostly from the UK to a part of Australia that didn't appear to have a lot of potential for the sport of rock climbing. CAWA members enjoy some spectacular climbing environs, gifted with opportunities and remoteness, a kinship and enthusiasm which will endure.

Tony Brebner
CAWA President

Two teenagers departed on the journey of a lifetime, guided by inspiration and madness, motivated by a passion to find the best crags in Europe.

JAMIE & ELLIOT DO EUROPE

REPORTER: Jamie Brander PHOTOS: Jamie Brander & Elliot Vercoe



What started as a daft idea soon developed into the trip of a lifetime. In July 2013 Elliot and I departed into the unknown, with very minimal idea of where we were going and what we were going to do.

All we knew is we had accommodation in Trento, Italy for 10 days and there was going to be a serious amount of climbing to be undertaken around Europe.

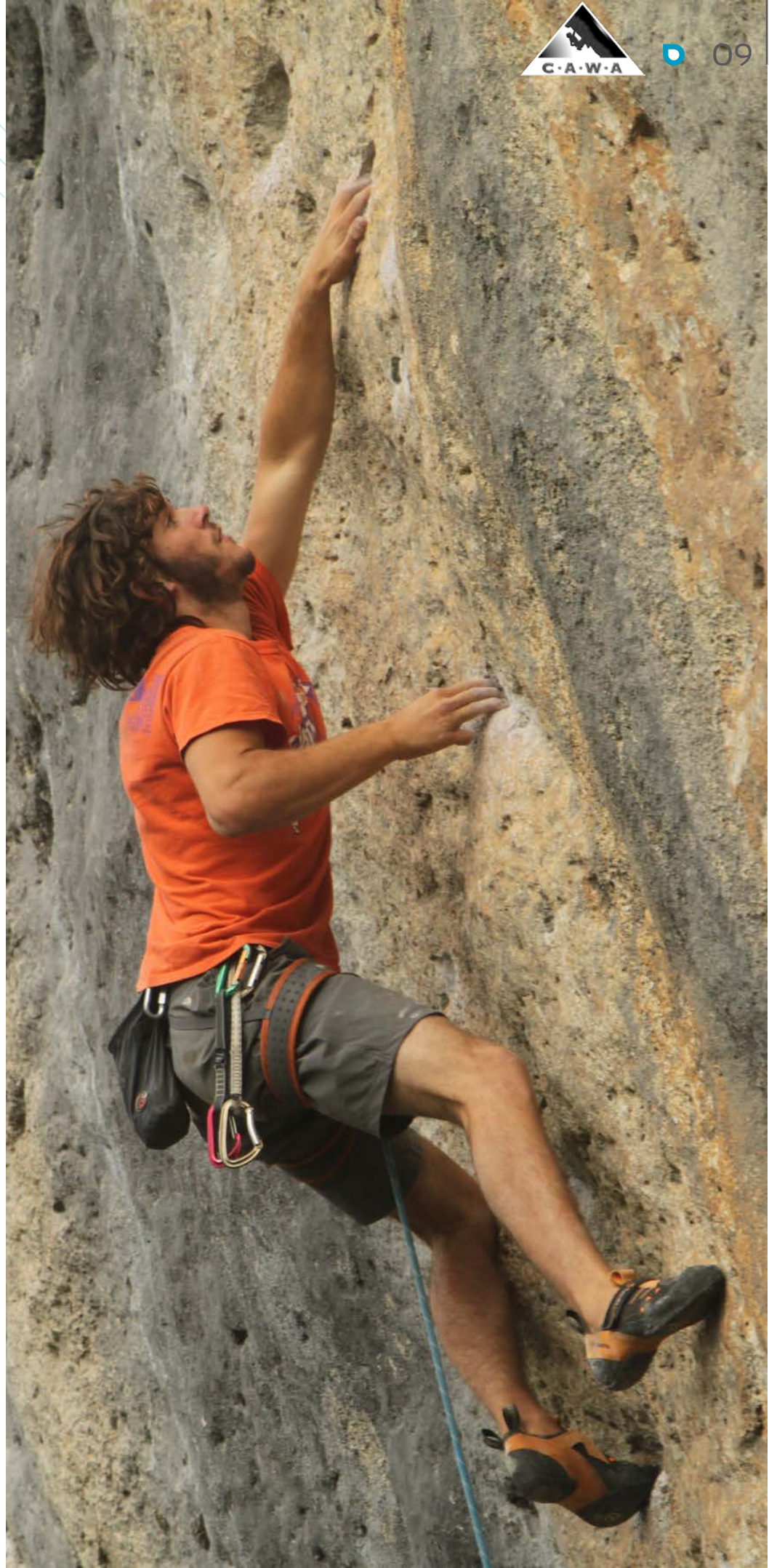
And so within the last four months we have travelled through 6 different countries, visited 15 cities, spent almost 50 days with two smelly climbers sleeping in a one-man tent and climbed at some of the best crags in the world!

The trip began in the beautiful, mountain side town of Trento located in the north of Italy. Days were spent bouldering on a low wall of limestone in the local park and venturing to an amazing local crag that not only presented some very nice climbs

but also an incredible view of the valley when you reached the anchors. On top of that, a two day trip to the Italian climbing mecca of Arco in which we forgot our cooker and had to make do with tuna and tomato paste. The lovely afternoons were spent at the lake and we had great nights meeting some of the locals.

After 10 days living in a magnificent cottage perched on the side of a mountain we headed for the sunny cliffs of Mallorca. An hours bus ride through miniature streets, that were definitely not designed for a bus, and we were in the small town of Cala d'Or.

We ventured to a small crag by the name of Cala Ferrera for a few days of deep water soloing. Four days were spent camping on the side of an amazing Mallorcan sea cliff. In the day we would battle sharp rock on the descent and high swell to get back onto the climbs, whilst the nights were spent swapping stories around our campfire.







which it turns out is in the north of France whilst Céüse is in the south. This led us to the fantastic forests of Fontainebleau!

With beautiful boulders stacked away in the incredible moss-covered forests, amazing bouldering is just a half hour walk from the town. A week of skin shredding, small crimps, and crazy flop-over topouts, the adventure continued onwards to Céüse.

We arrived in awe of this incredible mountain, crowned by the most amazing limestone I've ever seen. The orange rock surges with radical black and blue streaks that can be seen from miles away. Spending three weeks in the campsite, we got to know some other Aussies, and a pair of Kiwis. It seems that when Australians meet in other countries, the shenanigans begin.

During our time at Céüse it was one of the Kiwis' birthday. As a special treat for his birthday,

and with some significant encouragement from some of the other Aussies, Elliot and I spent the day at the crag in our speedos. It was also raining on this day, excellent idea because all our clothes stayed dry, except rain on the top of a mountain doesn't provide for much warmth.

As much as we were enjoying being absolutely shutdown by the stiff grades of Céüse, our time there was cut short when Elliot hid one of the Kiwi's bags as they were leaving for The Frankenjura, Germany. She forgot about it.

This small joke turned into a three day hitchhike across three countries into the rain of South Germany.

Stay tuned for Part 2 of our adventures!





"the climbers gym"

Established in 1996



ROCKFACE INDOOR CLIMBING CENTRE

REGULAR SPECIALS & FREE SHIPPING*
SEE THE WEBSITE FOR DETAILS

ONLINE PRO-SHOP

SOMETHING FOR EVERY CLIMBER

NEED MORE TRAINING?

Core training courses now available:
Technique Training & Indoor Lead Climbing
call Rockface for more information.

 **9328 5998**

63b John Street Northbridge www.rockface.com.au

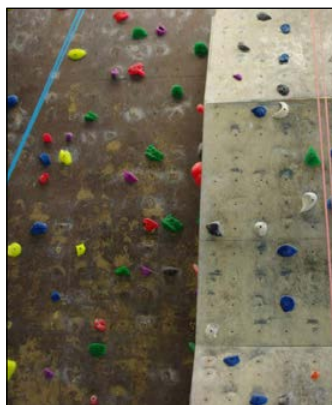
GYM LOCATIONS IN WA



ROCKFACE

63B John St
Northbridge
9328 5998

MORE INFORMATION:
www.rockface.com.au



THE HANGOUT

12 White St
Bayswater
9371 9939

MORE INFORMATION:
www.thehangout.com.au



CITY SUMMIT

2/26 Harris Rd
Malaga
9248 7035

MORE INFORMATION:
www.citysummit.com.au



URBAN ASCENT

24 Jackson St
Bassendean
0419 304 925

MORE INFORMATION:
www.urbanascent.com.au



JOONDALUP

2/25 Winton Rd
Joondalup
9301 0097

MORE INFORMATION:
joondalupclimbingcentre.webs.com



NATURALISTE

1/32 Faure Lane
Dunsborough
9750 5252

MORE INFORMATION:
climbingnaturaliste.com.au

OFF BELAY

CAWA CHRISTMAS PAELLA AT POINT WALTER

RSVP now to the CAWA Christmas Boulder BBQ Bash! Saturday 7th December at 2pm at Point Walter. Partners and families welcome and kids eat free :) CAWA is subsidising the foood, yummy paella and tapas which means it's only \$15pp...amazing value. Boulder at Blackwall Reach, slackline at the park. It's going to be a fabulous afternoon and we hope to see you there!

Register by 3rd December please so we can ensure you are catered for!

AGM FEB 2014

On Tuesday 11th Feb 2014, we are holding our annual AGM. We had a great turnout last year and know next year is going to be even better. It is held at the State Library Theatre of WA in Northbridge at 7pm for a gala evening. FREE to all CAWA members. The eagerly awaited annual CAWA Photo Comp (see right page) is on and the winners will be announced at the AGM. We will also be nominating and enrolling the new 2014 Committee and we will have a guest speaker and a climbing quiz, with prizes to win. Your formal invite will be emailed soon and we welcome your involvement!

DANGEROUS BOLTS SURVEY

The CAWA Committee asks for your help to identify dangerous and suspect bolts in WA. Please go to the CAWA forum to add your valuable input so that we can look at solutions.

NEW PERTH ROCK GUIDE

The new Perth Rock guide to climbing and bouldering around Perth was released in August 2013. It features lots of new spots and new routes including Blackwall Reach. Get your copy from one of the gyms or at www.climbwest.com.au.

REEL ROCK FILM FESTIVAL

An awesome turn out at the Reel Rock Film Fest at Cinema Paradiso in October. The line up included 'The Sensei' with Daniel Woods and Yuji Hirayama, 'High Tension' with Ueli Steck and the clashes on Mt Everest in 2012, 'Spice Girl' featuring the UK's Hazel Findlay tackling some bold trad climbing, and 'The Stone Masters', a sneak preview of 'Valley Up-rising', a documentary of the history of climbing in Yosemite.

ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION 2014

It's on again! The annual CAWA AGM Photo Competition!

Entries close at midnight on Monday 27th January 2014.

Once again, all CAWA members are invited to submit their inspiring, awesome, action-packed climbing photos from this year's climbing adventures. Rules of engagement are:

1. You can only submit photos you've taken yourself;
2. You agree to allow us to consider it for inclusion in the next issue of the CAWA Calendar (2014) and publish a small image of it on the CAWA website, Facebook page and the Western Climber (especially if you win!);
3. You must be a current CAWA member; and
4. The photo must be taken in 2013 or 2014 (so you can submit photos taken from the Christmas/New Years adventures!).

There will once again be two categories:

1. Climbing in WA (the most important one); and
2. Climbing Everywhere Else (not as good as climbing in WA)

Additional prizes this time round will also be given for such obviously under-appreciated talent as:

- Best bum shot;
- Best action shot;
- Best photo that makes the quarry look like a world class destination (hey, I didn't say this was an easy comp!); and
- Best climbing outfit.

The CAWA photo comp has been a resounding success in the last few years, and we will once again be creating a CAWA calendar for 2014 with the submitted photos. The calendar will be from March 2014 to February 2015 to coincide with the AGM. They will be available for purchase on the night of the AGM, and if any are left over they can be distributed to the gyms for you to purchase at an extraordinary low price of \$10.

If you have any queries, or would like to enter, please email: kates@climberswa.asn.au

Useful information to include with your submitted photo:

1. Your name;
2. The name of the climb, climber and location. You can also include the grade if you wish.

016



BY MONIQUE FORESTIER

KALBARRI GOLD

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMON CARTER
AT ONSIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY





Kalbarri Gorge is unworldly. Imagine slicing through the pristine air, a slit from head to foot, just enough to squeeze through to the other side, into a moment from the past, as you enter the gorge the brick red cliffs, the serpentine river and the cobalt sky do their wonderful reveal, your breath leaves you and your skin tightens as goose bumps rise. The only other place that has had such an impact on me was The Olgas (Kata Tjuta) and if you have been there you'll know what I mean. Just being in the gorge is a privilege, a glimpse of something very special, a place that hasn't changed for ages, except for a few chalked up holds, here and there. A feeling of calm washes over you and life as we call it ceases to exist.

Its June already. Its panning out to be yet another one of those years where you vow, "I'm not going to let this one slip by". But inevitably you find yourself stranded like a humpback whale frolicking in cold seas when the rest of your pod have migrated to warmer climes or climbs as the case may be. Last year, when winter's icy fingers tightened their grip we escaped north to Queensland, this year we went west, you know just like the song goes... Go west life is peaceful there. We went as far west as we could possibly go before dropping into the Indian Ocean and boy was it peaceful there. Kalbarri is located some 600 kms north of Perth, its

where the fishing rods outnumber the postage stamps for sale in the tackle shop come post office, and the local pelicans are obnoxious.



Here at our makeshift HQ; a typical holiday garden villa, with a typical screen door that squealed like a cat caught napping in the engine bay every time it opened and closed. It was here that our numbers doubled. We were joined by our northern comrades; Sam Cujes, Lee Cujes and John (JJ) O'Brien. It was to be a whirlwind three day climbing trip.

Our mission was simple: to climb as much as possible in Kalbarri Gorge. We focussed on The Promenade – the most condensed climbing area with routes graded 24-29. The days were short and climbing time was precious, like gold, and many things tried to ransack our loot. The closure of the main road into the gorge meant that navigating the sandy 4WD track was tedious and annoying, much like sand in your cossies, but at least we had the place to ourselves.

Monique on
Crankshaft (24)

L: The Motley Crew

"JUST BE-
ING IN THE
GORGE IS A
PRIVILEGE,
A GLIMPSE
OF SOME-
THING VERY
SPECIAL, A
PLACE THAT
HASN'T
CHANGED
FOR AGES. A
FEELING OF
CALM WASH-
ES OVER
YOU."



A FAMILY AFFAIR...

Coco leads the way through the Kalbarri gorge to the Promenade, WA's elite sport climbing crag.

It was a nice hike to get to the crag, a choose-your-own-adventure, negotiating between the upper and lower terraces that hugged the lazily meandering river. You could certainly shave minutes off by stashing your climbing gear at the cliff and if you minus a certain four and a half year old you could easily be done and dusted with your warm-ups in the time saved. In saying that I certainly have to acknowledge the tremendous effort that Coco put in, walking in, and out, of the gorge three days straight. She loved it!



On the weekend we were joined by Perth locals Brian Tan, Jean-Phillippe Dumas, et al. Like pent up monkeys in the zoo the comradeship was antagonistic, the antics acrobatic and the energy endless only thwarted by waning daylight hours not lack of wanting. The rock, a fiery fine grained sandstone, which seem to ooze a lifeblood of its own, climbed magnificently well, offering up Mulinesque scoops and open handed madness alongside pinches, pockets and jugs that were bigger than those found

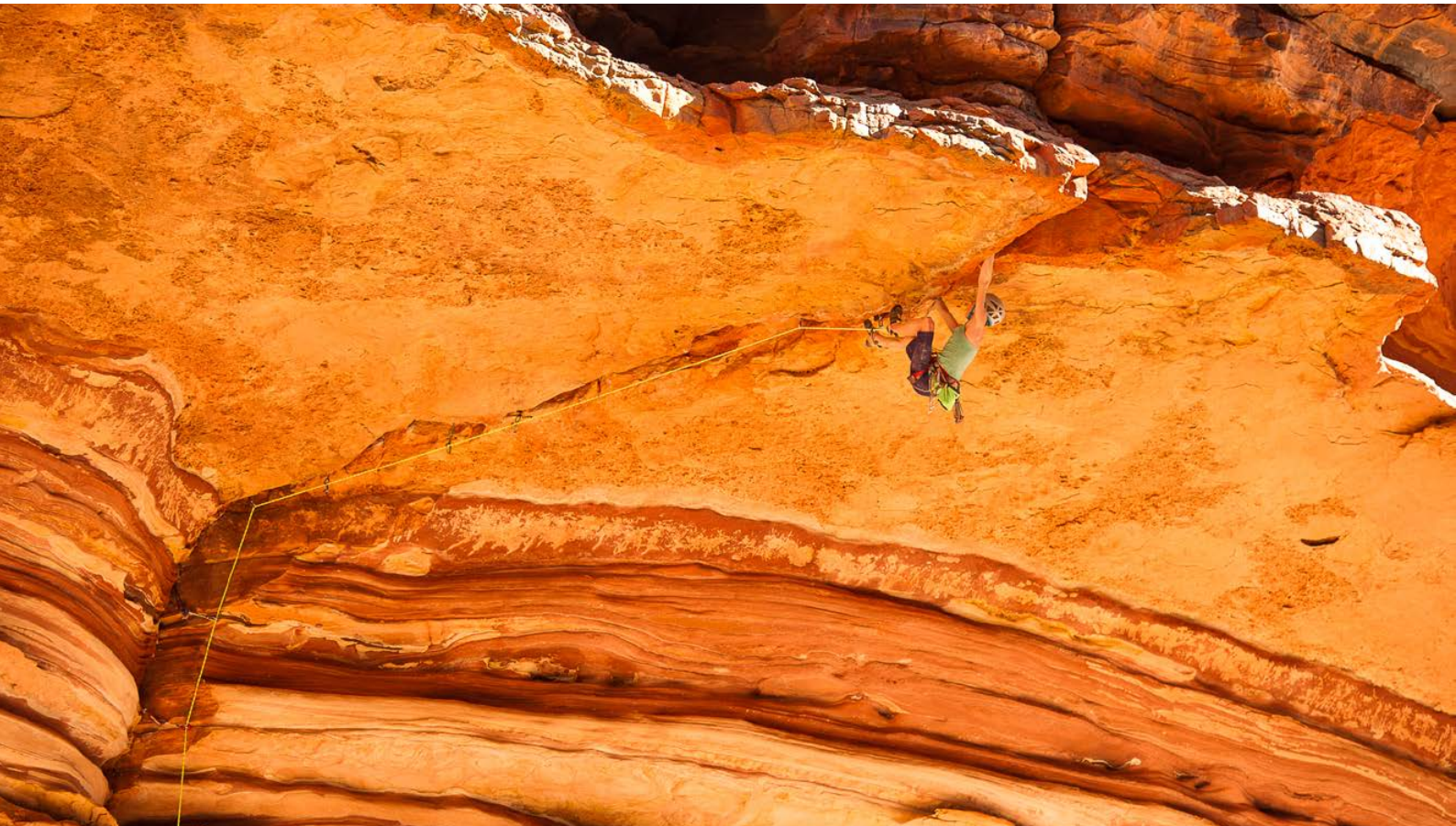
in a Bavarian beer hall.

The pace was furious, so much so that by day three my A2 finger pulley was starting to whine. I like wine so I didn't pay much attention to it and just kept climbing.

Things came together; JJ, the master of funk managed to unearth undiscovered knee bars to send Root Canal (27) in an unlikely fashion, and I'm not talking about his clothes.







Sam, stepped up and didn't let Rattler (22) rattle her stylish cage. And Lee, well, he diligently picked his way through every route at The Promenade and sent them all — every single one.

Meanwhile Simon happily fossicked away climbing and snapping some of the action. I tried my new X4 Camalots out and went prospecting for some Kalbarri Gold (26) and found plenty. And Coco became a savvy little entrepreneur by selling us back our lunch and climbing kit... thereby collecting all the loot. Mission complete.

Down at Margaret River (Margs) I ignored my

finger further and managed to get a bit more climbing done in between sporadic showers. Just like a Chihuahua with small dog syndrome nipping away at my ankles, the rain and my niggling finger gradually wore me down. I guess we'll have to come back and bring sunshine... and a less annoying dog.

Thank you Rob Crowder for being so generous with your time and assistance. Thank you Anthony Brandis (CAWA) and the many energetic climbers we met along the way. Thanks for making our trip so memorable.

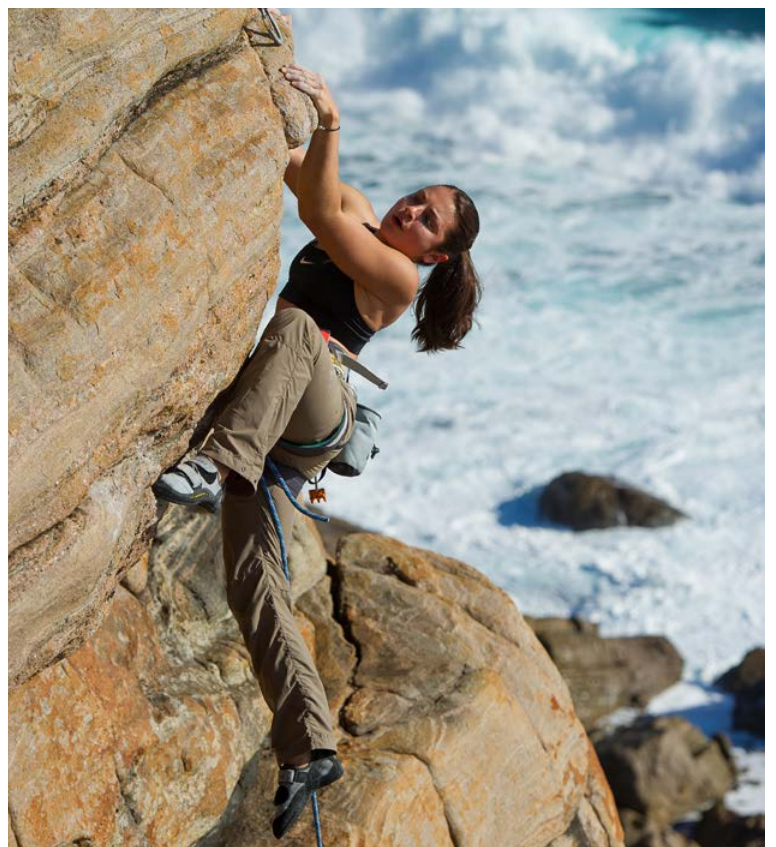
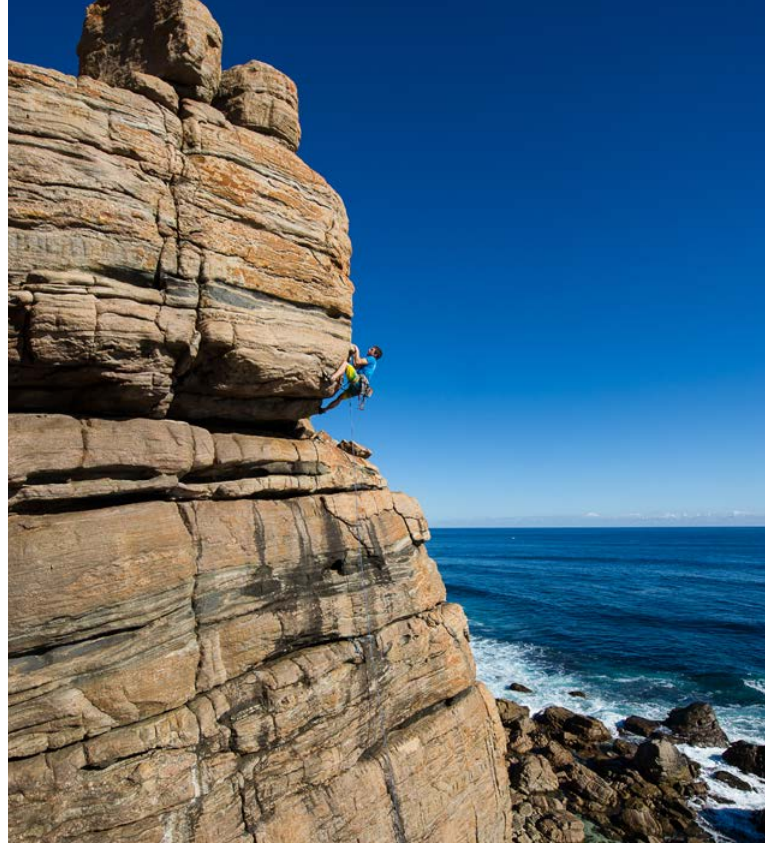
Happy climbing!



The
Promenade,
Kalbarri NP



BOB'S HOLLOW AND WILYABRUP, MARGARET RIVER





GOOD OLD FASHIONED SERVICE

Owned and run by an OLD husband and wife team! :) All of our staff are passionate climbers. We all climb both indoors and outdoors. We are even teaching some of our young staff the good OLD art of Trad Climbing!

Our service goes beyond our knowledge and helpful smiles from behind the counter. We bring you the latest training gear and are diligent about maintaining exceptional safety standards.

We are constantly setting new great climbs and pride ourselves on delivering excellent bouldering competitions.




Mugen Tech
RRP \$114.95
NOW ONLY
\$79.95

GOOD OLD FASHIONED PRICES

We stock an ENORMOUS RANGE of CLIMBING GEAR! We have over 15 styles of climbing shoes and over 15 styles of climbing harnesses, 10 styles of boulder pads, 15 different hangboards, loads of trad gear, loads of sports climbing and bouldering gearthe list just goes on and on!

WE HAVE GREAT PRICES! Nearly all of our prices are at least 10% off recommended retail prices. Some of our gear is way less than half price! You can buy online or in-store.

Our CAWA entry prices and membership prices provide AWESOME VALUE!



GOOD NEW HOLDS & VOLUMES

We take our holds and volumes seriously! We have bought literally thousands of new holds during that last year. We chose the best holds we could find in the world! We only choose holds that utilize the latest features and materials.

We have volumes made here in WA, as well as others from Queensland, USA and the UK. We love them all!

Some of our volumes are hand painted works of art!



Stew
Sant on
Arachnus,
Mt Arapiles

Commercial Advertising Rates

- Read by a niche group of outdoor enthusiasts
- Electronic publication distributed to all CAWA members and made available online after 6 months to the general public
 - Full colour advertising that gets attention
 - Low cost advertising fees
 - Support the local WA climbing community

FOR FULL YEAR, FOUR ISSUES:
Full page \$160, Half Page \$80



NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAINEERING

REPORTER: Dena Rao PHOTOS BY: Dena Rao

Dena ventured to Aoraki, Mt Cook National Park in New Zealand to try her hand at learning the technical skills required for mountaineering, a life long dream.

Entering the room I spy a vinyl covered 'double' mattress. I wonder if I've caught the wrong helicopter and walked into the middle of a blue movie set. Surely this luxurious dream raft could not possibly be mine for the next eight days? Oh, hang on. You want me to share this miniscule piece of prime real estate with another person? Maybe this is the modern way to bond with your climbing partner because physical contact is 100% guaranteed. So is a unique soundtrack of bizarre crackling noises every time you dare to move. Fortunately, my bedfellow on the first night was a guide from another party who had clearly mastered the fine art of sleeping buddy etiquette. After they left the following morning, I had the whole thing to myself for the rest of our stay. Score!

Though unprepared for the Teflon bed, I knew

the New Zealand mountaineering experience would be quite different from the European one. Europe is a very civilised place to go mountaineering. In many areas access is easy (lifts, trains and/or hiking trails); huts are often cosy and heated; meals are available and blankets and hut shoes are provided. The weather is generally more stable.

Europe is crowded and there is a flow on effect into the mountains due to ease of access and good facilities. Hut fees can be expensive, even with alpine club discounts. NZ, on the other hand, is known for challenging access to remote areas, often requiring a helicopter; basic huts that often have no heating, definitely no catering and possibly no cooking facilities; the need to carry in everything you need; more unstable weather (maritime alpine climate); steep mountains and big crevasses.



While some huts may reach capacity in peak season, we are talking relatively few people.

Keen to try mountaineering from a young age, somehow life got in the way and it was 2010 before I had my first taste of it in the European Alps. But it wasn't enough, I wanted more.

My desire to pursue mountaineering is hampered by the lack of suitably technical mountains in Australia on which to develop skills. Seeking some accelerated learning, I travelled to Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, in February this year, to undertake a technical mountaineering course (TMC).

I love the Euro Alps. I'm also pretty fond of the Swiss rösti and that fan-

tastic patisserie in Chamonix. So why NZ? The reputation of the guiding companies; comprehensive and cost effective courses; less travel time; lower altitude (no acclimatisation) and the more challenging environment. I was also desperate to get back into the mountains and unwilling to wait for the next Euro summer season!

Mt Cook village is dominated by the exclusive Hermitage Hotel. With no local supermarket, the hotel shop stocks an eclectic range of items — basic food supplies, souvenirs, Icebreaker merino and some exorbitantly priced but gloriously soft woolly stuff that turned out to be possum fur clothing. Let that be a warning to the next possum who even thinks about eating the top off



my bacon and cheese rolls at Arapiles next year.

Initially appalled, I then learned that possums are out of control pests in NZ doing significant damage to flora and fauna. With no natural predators even the World Wildlife Fund supports their eradication, though not necessarily the fur trade coming from it.

The Hermitage also houses The Sir Edmund Hillary Alpine Centre: a museum, 3D cinema and planetarium. Some of Hillary's gear, including the famous Fairydown sleeping bag, is on display. After the meet and greet at the adjacent Alpine Guides office, there was no mucking around. Armed with femfresh wipes, it was straight into the mountains the next day via my first ever helicopter ride. Whisked up the rapidly retreating Tasman glacier, past Mt Cook we arrived at our base for the next eight days: Kelman Hut.

Well, not quite. We still had to haul our gear and food up from the Tasman glacier névé without dropping it in the crevasse below the hut. And dig a snow cache for our meat. First item on the training agenda was self arrest. Unexpected flashbacks to a nasty express descent of a snow couloir in Slovenia filled me with trepidation. At least there wasn't a cliff at the end of this slide. With enthusiasm to rival the Jamaican bobsled team, we hurtled down the snow slope in every position imaginable. Course initiation was com-

plete: everyone had snow in their pants.

The purpose of this trip was not peak bagging but acquiring and applying skills, including: glacier travel; snow and ice climbing; belay systems and techniques; anchors; crevasse rescue; route finding; emergency shelters; mountain navigation, weather and forecasting; route finding and avalanche evaluation. The focus is practical experience. Back at the hut we dangled off roof beams and railings and the walls were adorned with some light reading, courtesy of one of our guides. We ate a lot. Unfortunately we didn't have any bad weather in which to test ourselves and our gear. The highlight of the trip for me came on our ascent of Hochstetter Dome (2827 m). I led a mixed pitch that started in a crevasse, moved onto steep hard packed snow and finished up through some rock and ice, complete with simul climbing to keep me on my toes. I definitely prefer mixed routes to a long snow plod up a mountain (very tiring) and I can't wait to do more.

The 'main' ascent was Mt Abel (2688 m), which involved multi-pitching up the snow slope to reach a rocky ridge leading to a final rock scramble to the top. The instability of the rock was such that climbing up the rock wall from the snow to gain the ridge came with strict instructions not to touch any of the rock with our hands and only use our feet. Mm...slab climbing in crampons. We abseiled down several pitches to get off the





route, using bolts recently places by one of our guides. This wasn't the usual descent. The general lack of rock climbing experience meant that it was painfully slow and raining rocks. Plenty of colourful expletives were heard from our less conventional guide, who doesn't generally wear a helmet.

And speaking of our guides, you could not meet two more different people: Murray, a true crazy-haired mountain man who apparently comes and goes as he pleases and Bill, a stern, quietly spoken mountaineer with a dry sense of humour. It's worth doing a course just to spend time with guys like this to acquire tips and techniques that you will never find in a book. The most unlikely person to talk about bodily functions, Bill one day ushered us women into the pokey little guides' room and whipped out a Sheewee (funnel with an extension). He lectured us about avoiding dehydration, a common problem for female mountaineers that significantly hinders performance. Lacking our own easily exposed appendage, women tend to avoid fluid intake because peeling off layers and harnesses is impractical. While it's not quite the same, I can confirm that the shaking bit at the end is still pretty tricky.

Several people have asked for opinions about the course. The TMC is pitched at climbers wanting to transition into mountaineering and it is stated that

previous rope handling experience is required. The people on my course had little or no climbing experience. It was very frustrating, slowing things down and thereby limiting the material we had time to cover. I missed out on some of the key skills I went there to learn. Ask questions to find out the experience of the other participants before paying a deposit. To get maximum benefit, I would suggest taking a buddy with you — your choice of partner can make or break a climbing trip. In hindsight, private instruction might have been a better choice because you can cover the same material as the TMC and more. On the positive side, I learned many valuable things; got a lot of practical experience in a beautiful setting; customer service from initial contact was outstanding; fresh food was provided (which makes a difference); I made some new friends and am now the proud owner of a hot pink Shewee.

My focus is gaining more experience. Early in 2014 I may head back to NZ. Later in the year I hope to solo (controversial, I know) some easy routes in France and Switzerland and tick off some of the European classics. And then there's Canada and Nepal. In the future, anything is possible and the idea of a first ascent is pretty appealing... some of the European classics. And then there's Canada and Nepal. In the future, anything is possible and the idea of a first ascent is pretty appealing...





Dena heading
down the Tasman
Glacier.
PHOTO:
Michelle Roberts



INFO: FALL FACTORS

ARTICLE AND ILLUSTRATIONS: Jonas Hollingworth EMAIL: jonash@climberswa.asn.au

WHAT ARE THEY? HOW DO THEY AFFECT YOU? WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE THEM?

A fall factor is a calculation used to measure the shock loads generated when a climber falls. Climbers should aim to reduce shock loads as much as possible as high shock loads can lead to severe injury or death and/or failure of gear and protection placements. Knowledge of fall factors are especially important in trad climbing because they will influence placement of protection, however there are many important factors that every climber should know.

Dynamic ropes are specially designed to stretch, which spreads the forces generated by a falling climber over a brief period of time, thereby reducing shock loading and cushioning the fall. The longer the fall, the more force is generated, however the proportion of rope stretch to fall height varies depending on the positioning of protection and the amount of rope out. For this reason we

wish to minimise fall distances and maximise stretch.

The fall factor calculation uses the distance of a climber's fall (until the rope begins to stretch) and the length of rope out at the time. The calculation is:

Length of fall / length of the rope = Fall factor

The maximum possible fall factor is 2 which is the least favourable outcome because this provides the least amount of stretch possible. In this situation a climber falls twice the distance of the rope in a multi-pitch scenario. For example, a climber climbs 5m above the belayer and falls off with no protection below. The climber falls 5m to the belayer and a further 5m past the belayer (a total of 10m) on only 5m of rope. $10\text{m} / 5\text{m} = \text{fall factor } 2$.

A 10m fall occurring in the above scenario is much more severe and dangerous when compared to a 10m fall where the climber falls from 20m above the belayer. In this case a piece of protection 15m above the belayer catches the climber's rope. $10\text{m} / 20\text{m} = \text{fall factor } 0.5$.

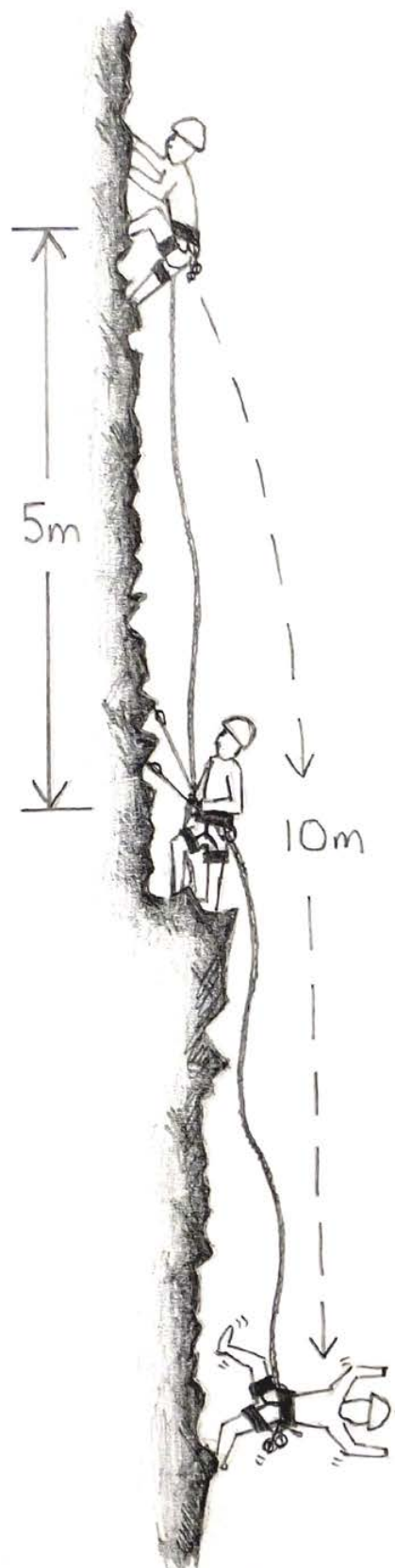
Even though it's still a pretty big fall this situation is much less severe because there is 4 times more rope which means there is also 4 times more stretch available. This is one of the reasons why I tell my mother and people who are afraid of heights, that it's generally safer the higher you climb (the other reason is because the higher I climb, the more pieces of protection I will have in between me and the ground).

A 2m fall resulting in a fall factor 2 is just as severe as a 20m fall resulting in a fall factor 2. Although the fall is 10 times as high there is also 10 times more rope stretch available when compared to the stretch available in 1m of rope. The period of fall arrest in the 20m fall will be much longer however the maximum shock loading will not exceed that of the 2m fall, in theory anyway.

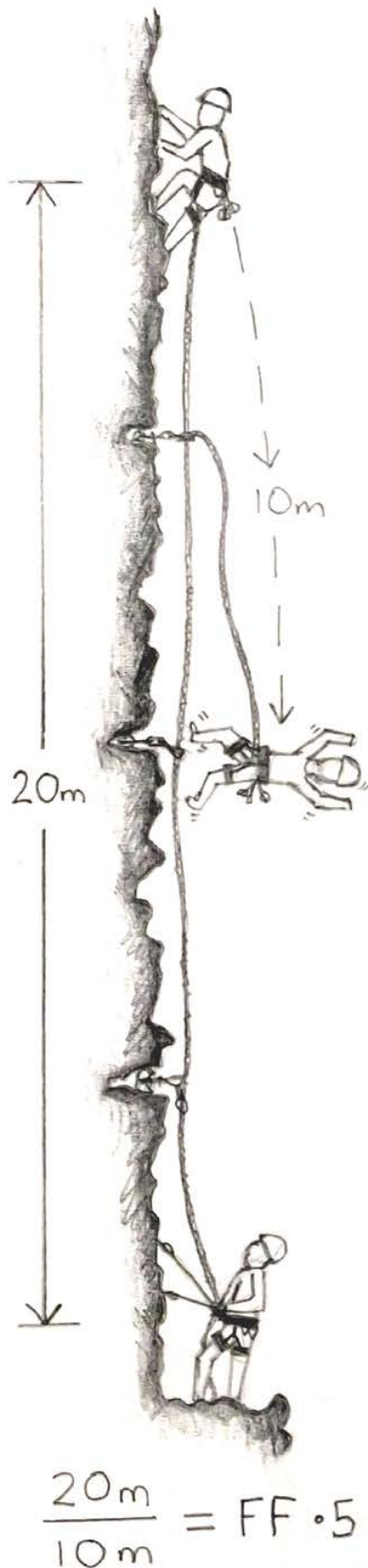
Rope considerations

The international mountaineering and climbing federation (Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme - UIAA) has set standards for the amount of shock a rope must absorb. This is called Impact Force. UIAA standards mandate that dynamic single ropes must absorb enough shock so that the force on a 80kg climber does not exceed more than 12kn in a fall factor 2.

Also every rope has a specific number of UIAA rated falls it will be able to sustain before it breaks. A UIAA rated fall is a fall factor 1.77 which simulates a 80kg climber falling on a single rope from 2.3m above



$$\frac{5\text{m}}{10\text{m}} = \text{FF } 2$$



the first piece of protection which is 30cm above the anchor (not an unimaginable situation). So this equates as - 4.6m fall / 2.6m of rope = fall factor 1.77. This test is done on brand new rope so if your rope is used, worn or damaged and/or the climber is heavier, then the number of UIAA falls your rope can sustain may now be less than what its rated for.

As a general rule the thinner the rope, the less falls it can sustain. For example my 11mm can sustain 12x UIAA rated falls however my 9.1mm will only survive 5. Check the manufacturers specifications for the number of UIAA rated falls and impact force or for more info on this subject go to www.theuiaa.org/commissions_safety.html

Despite all this, don't let me scare you away from trad. A fall factor of 1.77 is very rare and quite severe and it is doubtful you will ever experience even one of these in your life, provided you place adequate protection. The highest fall factors I have experienced (not the longest falls) were all quite close to the ground. On two different climbs I fell 3m / on 5m of rope = 0.6 fall factor. With rope stretch and other factors the fall was extended out to 4m so I was stopped only 1m from the ground! These falls had little impact on the integrity of my rope and I would generally only consider retiring a rope after it has taken a fall factor 1 or greater. However the same old rule applies - make a self assessment based on a full inspection of the rope and knowledge of its history.

So how do you reduce fall factors and the affects of shock loading?

The most effective way to reduce fall factors and the distance of a potential fall is by placing gear, particularly early in the climb when there is only a short amount of rope out. In a multi-pitch scenario I always clip a piece of gear before I step off from the belay, even if it is the piece of gear used in the anchor, and then continue to place gear reasonably close together in the first 5-10m of a climb.

Another way to reduce fall factors is to use dynamic or advanced belaying where the belayer attempts to prolong the fall by either letting rope slip through the belay or with body movement. This requires practice and experience and should not be attempted where it might potentially cause ground fall.

Reduce rope drag over rocks or through runners. This will ensure that the amount of available stretch is maximised throughout the entire length of rope.

Rest your rope to give it the best chance for lost stretch to return to the fibres. Although a dynamic rope may be undamaged, they do suffer small amounts of permanent elongation every time they're stretched from falls, rappelling, lowering etc. This adds up over time and may lead to rope retirement even if there is no physical damage. I rest my ropes by resting it for twice the time I had it in operation. So if I have climbed on my rope for 3 consecutive days, I will rest it for 6. But that's just my 'rule'.



Use shock absorbing slings or quick-draws, such as 'Screamers' or 'Rippers'. Shock absorbing slings are ideal when there is potential for a high fall factor or a fall on a suspect placement. Shock absorbing slings are folded and stitched in such a way that when they reach a force limit, usually around 250 - 300kg (2.5 - 3kn), they will tear and extend thereby reducing shock loading (see insert).

Never climb on static ropes. Static ropes have very little stretch and the impact force generated can quickly exceed that of a dynamic rope causing severe injury and gear failure. A factor 2 fall as little as 120cm on a static rope can create enough shock loading to cause severe injury, death or failure of climbing gear. This is the main reason why I never put myself in a situation where I might potentially fall on a daisy chain or Dyneema sling, as they have little to no stretch.

If you would like to continue this discussion with me or if you have anything to add then feel free to email me at jonash@climberswa.asn.au

JJ leading
Root Canal (27)
in Kalbarri NP.

PHOTO BY SIMON
CARTER





Training Gear

Portable Devices



Power Grips
RRP\$36.95

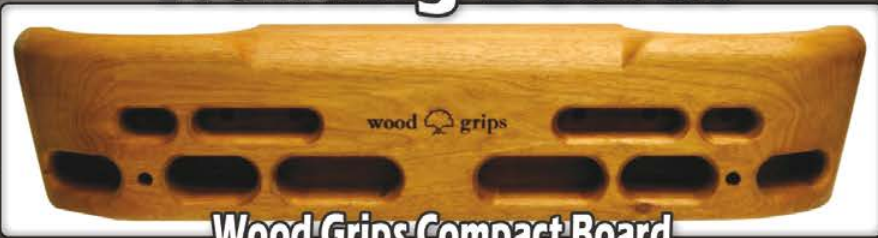


Rock Rings
RRP\$54.95



Grip Savers
Soft, Medium or Hard
RRP\$28.95

Training Boards



Wood Grips Compact Board
RRP\$119.95



Wood Grips Deluxe Board
RRP\$149.95



Project Board
RRP\$84.95

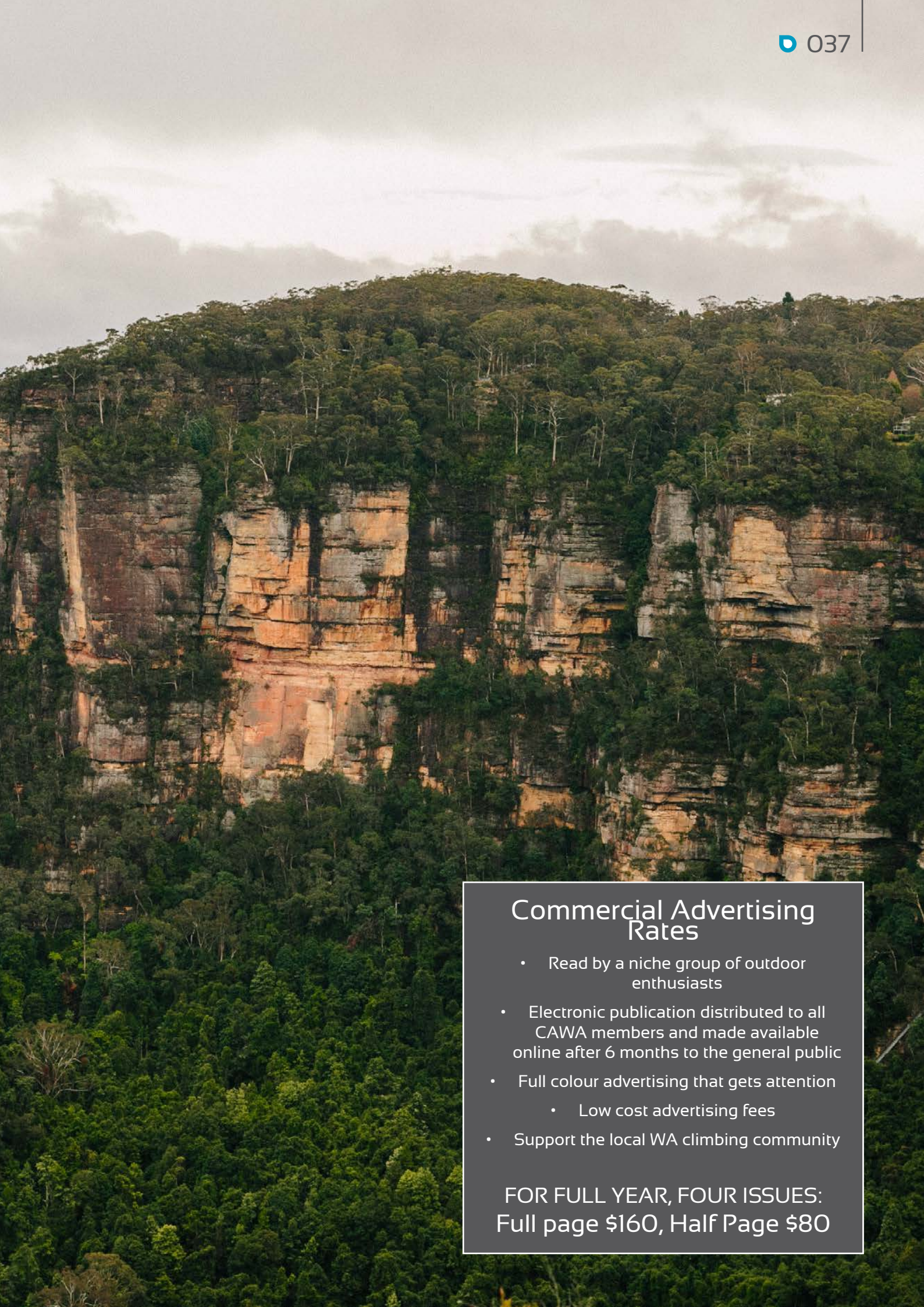


Simulator Board
RRP\$129.95

Available at your climbing store
www.metoliusclimbing.com

Distributed in Australia by Climbing Anchors 0266515510





Commercial Advertising Rates

- Read by a niche group of outdoor enthusiasts
- Electronic publication distributed to all CAWA members and made available online after 6 months to the general public
- Full colour advertising that gets attention
 - Low cost advertising fees
- Support the local WA climbing community

FOR FULL YEAR, FOUR ISSUES:
Full page \$160, Half Page \$80

INVINCIBLE

DO YOU WEAR A HELMET WHEN CLIMBING? DENA REVIEWS SAFETY AND COMPLACENCY ISSUES INVOLVED WITH CLIMBING

Four years ago, inspired by an intimate encounter with a rock at Churchies, I wrote an article on helmets. I was lucky. It only split my shoulder open. After a little sit down and some jelly babies I was restored to my former glory and we all marvelled at the damage a relatively small rock can do. The scar on my shoulder is affectionately named 'Angela'. My helmet was sitting on the ground with the rest of my gear while I tested a newly acquired neck brace (complete with retrofitted lambswool). The excuse? Taking accessorising to unprecedented heights, this unique and stylish combination was also very uncomfortable.

Climbing safety is multi-faceted and controversial, so I can already hear teeth gnashing in the gallery. But in light of recent fatalities, it's worth revisiting, to (hopefully) encourage discussion and motivate climbers to review their systems. Unlike mountaineering, rock climbing has remarkably few objective (regardless of climber presence) hazards and controlling the subjective (climber factors) risks is relatively easy. Most rock climbing 'accidents' are a direct result of human error and preventable.

Safety is partly about equipment but mostly about knowledge and attitude. 'Small' decisions can significantly increase or decrease risk. The complacency that comes with experience, increased tolerance to hazards and lack of serious accidents, is one of the biggest dangers. Beginners may learn and unknowingly perpetuate bad habits, while experienced climbers may become defensive when challenged. But you always have the right to question — it's your life too. Mistakes do happen, especially when fatigue is involved. Tying in poorly; not wearing a helmet; lax belaying style; frolicking on windy, chossy cliff edges without an anchor and failing to knot the ends of the rope when rappelling are just a few of the things I see regularly. While belaying on a recent Sunday at Churchmans, I asked that dogs running

amok through everyone's gear be kept restrained. Instead, one of them runs through and trips in the rope coiled at my feet, stopping to squat and urinate right next to me.

Do you perform buddy checks? Last year, I witnessed a beginner with another party ascend a climb without being checked. I know that because half way up, the waist buckle on his harness came completely undone. The rescue effort mounted by his buddies was just as disturbing. I was dreading the anticipated resuscitation — he wasn't wearing a helmet.

I was recently informed by a strapping young man that a helmet is superfluous when multi-pitching because, wait for it, you are up high and won't hit the ground when you fall. I don't think he's heard of Charles Darwin. A number of recent near misses locally relate to rock fall and there has been significant rock movement in Perth's most frequented areas — the quarries. Obviously a helmet has limitations in the face of a fridge-sized missile. But smaller rocks can knock you out, with pretty serious consequences for both leader and belayer.

Local knowledge and general awareness is critical. While climbing in parts of the Dolomites and New Zealand really is akin to negotiating a pile of Weet-bix, it's assisted, rather than spontaneous liberation of rocks that can be the biggest problem. On the south coast of WA some routes feature nature's version of a Kinder Surprise — snakes. Do you have first aid equipment and knowledge as well as means to contact emergency services? Will you survive the venomous snake bite only to die from a head injury? If you still think you're invincible, talk to Nigel at City Summit. He was bitten by a tiger snake at Bob's Hollow.

Consider that the decisions you make don't just

impact (no pun intended) on you. Some poor sod like me will feel obligated to try and piece you back together. As a woman, I'm biologically driven to make lists. Having run out of space, I'll just say this: the most valuable piece of safety equipment you have is the one between your ears.

You'll be devastated that the woolly neck brace has been retired in favour of some gorgeous, metallic purple belay glasses. By allowing you to maintain a neutral head position while watching your leader, they facilitate safer belaying and reduce neck pain. Yes, they have limitations. No, I'm not on commission. If you want to know more about the practicalities of using them, come and talk to me.

I'm hard to miss in these babies.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS 2

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

In Part 2 we talk about the different styles of outdoor rock climbing. Each type presents a different set of challenges (and equipment) and requires different skills to master.

BOULDERING

In bouldering, the climber does not use a harness or rope, as climbs are typically limited to a maximum height of 10m. Bouldering crash pads are commonly used to protect the climber from a fall.

Routes in bouldering are referred to as “problems” that (in Australia) are graded following the Hueco (USA) rating system from an easy V0 up to a heart pumping V16. As you only need a chalk bag, some shoes and arms of steel, this is a great way to start your outdoor climbing experience. The CAWA website has a list to a number of bouldering locations in WA.



TOP ROPING

This is a safe way to get into climbing outside (it's like indoor climbing in the sunshine!). The rope is always anchored above you, so the climber is always protected from a dangerous fall. The fall distance depends on rope stretch and the amount of slack the belayer has given the climber. Top-roping is also a great way to focus on technique, strength or build endurance for more advanced climbing.



SPORT CLIMBING

Sport climbing is climbing a route that already has pre-set protection and anchors bolted into the wall. This will require mastering the skills of being a lead climber. The lead climber clips into the pre-set protection along the route and sets up the anchors at the end of the route. Sport climbing is more easily accessible as routes are generally shorter, and require less equipment and training than traditional climbing.



The biggest challenge with the transition to lead climbing is over-coming the natural mental fear of taking a fall. When the lead climber takes a fall, the distance to the last protection point determines the fall distance. For example, if the climber is actually 4m above the last clip, the actual fall distance is 8m, as there is 4m of slack in the rope.

TRADITIONAL CLIMBING

“Trad” climbing is where the route requires the lead climber to set protection in the rock (e.g. camming devices, nuts and hexes) whilst ascending the route. This style of climbing requires a lot more equipment but more importantly, significant experience, training and technical knowledge to be done safely.

Incorrect equipment placement can lead to serious injury or fatalities. As equipment is placed and not bolted into the rock, its ability to take load depends entirely on the skill of the lead climber in setting the equipment in the right position for the climb. The lead climber will have to decide what to place, how many to place and where to place during the ascent; whilst maintaining enough equipment to complete the route and belay the second climber up the route.

Consideration of the fall factor when leading a trad climb is even more crucial. See our Fall Factor article in this issue!



MULTI PITCH CLIMBING

Multi-pitch climbing involves ascending more than one “pitch” as a team. The length of a single pitch depends on the route (usually the pitch ends where there is a safe place to set-up and anchor and belay

your team member(s) up). This technique is used to climb the “big walls” and if climbing for multiple days, the climbing team then moves into the realm of bivouac and gear hauling while climbing (i.e. setting up camp on the side of the wall!).

Multi-pitch is technically difficult and all team members should be strong climbers that are also competent in emergency and rescue scenarios. There is no turning back, once you are dangling off the side of a 300m wall, with your team members depending on you. Knowledge about the weather, the terrain, the route and potential escape paths; is also crucial to the climb.



AID CLIMBING

Aid climbing can be used to supplement more traditional climbing. It involves the use of devices that are used to capture upward progress. This type of climbing is typically employed for big-wall climbing, where progress through a section of the climb may be difficult or impossible if only free-climbing. Progress is typically quite slow and tenuous when constantly pulling up on gear.

SOLO CLIMBING (FREE SOLOING)

Dan Osman. Dean Potter. Alex Honnold. Google them. Pure climbing. Pure madness. No protection, no ropes. Only chalk, feet, hands and mental tenacity required. Find a wall, climb it and do not fall off... Ever. Others only attempt deep-water soloing, where there the penalty for falling off is only to get wet and have to swim back to the start. We have all solo-climbed as kids – up rocks, up trees... Alex Honnold free solos big walls. A lot of them. Sometimes a few in a day. Just for fun.

There are lots of flavours to pick from in climbing. What matters though is knowing and understanding that each style needs different gear, skills and levels of preparation. Always learn from someone who is experienced. And keep climbing.

CAWA POP UP TRIP
WET WILLYS





Trying out the new CAWA Pop Up Trips, we decided on Wilyabrup in October. After driving down on Friday night, we settled into our accommodation, a four person cabin. Tony pulled rank and got the double bed while the three of us (Jacob, Steve and myself) were left with the bunk beds. Friday dinner was a delicious bolognese sauce made by Jacob's mum Rachel, in an attempt to make sure we did not starve. Tony and Jacob whipped up the pasta in the miniature kitchen. There wasn't much room in this small shack.

Unfortunately rain started over night but our morning enthusiasm refused to be dampened. We got organised, had a quick breakfast and headed down to Wilyabrup in Tony's car.

In the parking area we discovered some 'human being' thought it would be a good idea to do a number two right next to the stile for getting over the fence. Unbelievable and disgusting! Ugh.

We decided to grab our gear and raincoats thinking the rock will dry nice and quick when the rain stops, no problem at all. After a pleasant walk in the rain, we arrived at the cliff top and I promptly set-up an anchor so we could top-rove Hope. I left Jacob and Steve to abseil in and climbed back out.

Tony was almost finished on the other anchor and I finished up whilst he went down to check on Jacob and Steve.

At the bottom I had the first go. The rock wasn't looking too bad, despite the rain (a constant drizzle). I got about one third of the way up and I quickly pumped out. I think it was the worry of the wet rock and slipping. This one was beyond me in the wet. Tony's turn: we did a different route and after a few moments he got up as far as he could, before he realised the rock was just too wet. Not a bad start though!

At this point Jacob and Steve arrived after cruising Hope.

So we swapped and at this point our spirits started to crack, given the fact the rain was not easing up at all. Just a steady relentless stream of water falling on our helmets.

Hope looked to be a lot more interesting in the wet. Being on top-rope meant you could just go for it. I managed to top out on that one no worries. It was surprising, but given that the normally slightly salty and greasy rock had been washed clean at this point, it was a nice climb.

Tony cruised it no worries also. I'm sure he was thinking about his attempt on Stainless Steel, which was going begging because of all this rain.

We all decided that it wasn't getting any better, so we packed up our now damp gear and headed back to the car.

Upon arrival at the stile, someone who shall remain nameless came within centime-



of standing in the aforementioned excrement.

I dragged the camera out because I could now keep it dry and we took some group photos with the camera positioned in the safe and cosy boot.

We decided that a quick visit to the Dunsborough Bakery was an excellent option and then decided to head on over to the Naturaliste Climbing Gym for a recce. We did the CAWA thing, met the owner and looked around the place: so many kids scrambling around: the next generation of climbers! We also met some of the local talent and I think they took pleasure in putting us on a few of their routes to watch us flail around.

The climbing future in the South West looks very promising.

Still raining, we accepted defeat and headed back to our accommodation. At this point, despite not getting much outdoor climbing in, I was feeling pretty stuffed. We hung our gear to dry, had showers and then headed down to The Settlers Tavern for some dinner, I needed it.

It was however an enjoyable climbing trip albeit under testing conditions. Next time weather gods, slightly less precipitation would



be preferable! Bring on summer...tres of standing in the aforementioned excrement.

I dragged the camera out because I could now keep it dry and we took some group photos with the camera positioned in the safe and cosy boot.

We decided that a quick visit to the Dunsborough Bakery was an excellent option and then decided to head on over to the Naturaliste Climbing Gym for a recce. We did the CAWA thing, met the owner and looked around the place: so many kids scrambling around: the next generation of climbers! We also met some of the local talent and I think they took pleasure in putting us on a few of their routes to watch us flail around.

The climbing future in the South West looks very promising.

Still raining, we accepted defeat and headed back to our accommodation. At this point, despite not getting much outdoor climbing in, I was feeling pretty stuffed. We hung our gear to dry, had showers and then headed down to The Settlers Tavern for some dinner, I needed it.

It was however an enjoyable climbing trip albeit under testing conditions. Next time weather gods, slightly less precipitation would be preferable! Bring on summer...





© Mark Kleinman



© Mark Kleinman

CLIMBING ANCHORS

THE GEAR • THE SPORT • THE LIFESTYLE



ALL THE GEAR YOU NEED



FOR YOUR

NEXT

CLIMBING TRIP

5/8 Industrial Drive - Coffs Harbour NSW 2450

www.climbinganchors.com.au

steve@climbinganchors.com (02) 6651 5510

[@climbinganchors](https://www.facebook.com/ClimbingAnchors) <http://www.facebook.com/ClimbingAnchors>

Alan Ezy on Laaabia 27, Fort Knox, Glenreagh NSW

NEW ROUTES

CHECK THE CAWA FORUM FOR DETAILS
ABOUT ALL NEW ROUTES. HAPPY CLIMBING!

GIBRALTAR ROCK

Dinosaur Jr (16/17) Mixed Trad and Sport, starting from Dinosaur Ledge.
T Ball and A Separovic Nov 2013

MUTTON BIRD HILL ALBANY

6 New short climbs (6-12m) on Mutton Bird hill. This is a recently developed Mini crag Near Albany. A mini guide is being developed as there is also some great bouldering around this area.

*Holy Brail (17)

*Skinkter (19)

*Marchfly (11)

*Dish it Out (16)

*One Small Step for Man (17)

*Blazing Guns (21)

D. Reed & P. Maher Nov 2013

MOUNTAIN QUARRY

Hustler 20**, starting 2m left of Penthouse

Playmate 22** 10m left of Playboy and 6m up the slope

Playmate Direct 21**

J. Hollingworth and O. Morell Oct 13

STATHAMS QUARRY- CHAIN REACTION AREA

Boulder Dash 16m 18* Trad, small corner 2m right of NOD, then into obvious corner.

J. Hollingworth and R. Baker Sep 13

WEST CAPE HOWE - THE SWALLOW

The Divil Direct 18* - P. Maher & J. Nevin 17-11-2013

WEST CAPE HOWE - SOUTHERN OCEAN WALL

Happy Clam 16 - J. Nevin & P. Maher. 9-11-2013

Shellfish Bastard 13 - P. Maher & J. Nevin 9-11-2013

BLUFF KNOLL - EASTERN BUTTRESS

The Nek 20***

8 pitches, trad, located on a massive obvious buttress, 200m east of Sophocles.

J. Hollingworth and O. Morell Oct 13

