

ARGUS

A silhouette of a person climbing a rock face against a bright sun in a cloudy sky. The sun is positioned in the upper center, creating a strong backlight effect. The rock face is on the right side, and the climber is visible as a small figure against the rock. The sky is filled with soft, grey clouds. The overall mood is dramatic and adventurous.

Victorian Climbing Club Newsletter
October 2020



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The VCC is based in Naarm / Melbourne. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land, the Boon Wurrung and Woiwurrung peoples of the Kulin Nation. We also acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the lands throughout Australia on which we climb. We recognise sovereignty was never ceded, and pay our respects to your Elders, past, present and emerging.

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ARGUS

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Send your submissions to argueditor@vicclimb.org.au
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Back Issues

For a selection of previous Argus issues, please follow this link: <https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/tep/129542>

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Front Cover

Will on Bop Till You Drop (25), Camels Hump
Photo: Leigh Hopkinson

EDITORIAL



Dear Members,

It's the business end of the year. The AGM was held on Tuesday night—congrats to those elected and re-elected. You'll find highlights on p9 and all of the reports on p26. Due to time constraints, the minutes will be in the next *Argus*.

As most of you will be aware, legal action has been

announced in response to the climbing bans in Gariwerd / the Grampians. Kevin Lindorff and Glenn Tempest have filed against Parks Victoria for procedural unfairness, with the VCC indemnifying them for any costs. The case is listed for a directions at the Supreme Court on 28 October (see p7).

For now, club trips remain on hold—the Committee will be revisiting this in the coming weeks as COVID-19 restrictions ease. Keep an eye on social media and our website for details.

Goatfest is this Saturday week, 10 October! Tix are available via Eventbrite. If you're thinking of entering, it's not too late. Check out previous submissions on facebook for inspiration. (Be warned: this could send you down a you-tube hole that ends with a mini-trampoline, a washing machine and a brick...)

Lastly, a small plug for *Winter on the Blade*. I finally got around to watching Simon Bischoff's documentary. If you haven't, it's a mere \$8 on Vimeo for a truly transportative experience into a very wet part of Tasmania. It's been good to dream. Though, if I'm honest, I'm dreaming of sunnier skies.

Hope to see you at the crag real soon.

Leigh

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi all,

Given the President's Report also in this *Argus*, I'll address just a few bits of news here that I haven't already covered (or, at least, covered in any detail) elsewhere.



AGM—the minutes of the meeting on 29 September will be posted on our website shortly. Thanks to all who put up their hands at the AGM to serve on the Committee. Thanks also to those who have served on the Committee over the last 12 months but who, for various reasons, are unable to continue to do so. Your service is much appreciated.

Legal challenge—it's on. We have availed ourselves of every avenue to talk constructively with Parks Victoria (PV) about possible options for protecting cultural heritage and the environment that do not require the exclusion of climbers from huge tracts of Gariwerd / the Grampians National Park. Indeed, we have organised extra meetings with PV executives off our own bat, chased up extra information to clarify our own understandings of what PV are hoping to achieve and make sure we hadn't missed anything, and written detailed, constructive proposals to PV management for them to consider.

We have not received any indication that PV has been willing to seriously consider even a single suggestion that we have made. It has become increasingly apparent that they are happy to listen politely, collate feedback and then... not act on any of it. So, it's off to court we go.

Our intel suggests we should expect a roll-out of more closures and restrictions on climbing at Arapiles, the Black Range and elsewhere across the state. How the VCC membership responds to the ongoing challenges on this front will be critical. Yes, we will continue to respectfully listen and to put our case, as we have been doing. But, realistically, there will be a need for fundraising ([access fund](#)) to ensure that climbers can hold up the legal stick if required to do so, rather than being seen as a toothless tiger. If you are in a position to contribute, please do so.

Other bits and pieces worth noting:

The Greater Grampians Landscape Management Plan is, presumably, with the Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change now (unless PV have obtained an extension to the extension that they haven't announced). Before too long we can expect that it will be released to the public for comment. From then we will have a short window of time during which we can write submissions and give feedback. Whilst the VCC Committee can and will prepare a response, it is important that as many individuals as possible also provide feedback to PV on what is in the GGLMP. Once we see the draft plan, we will make comment on the VCC website and suggest issues that writers can address.

Make no mistake, we will need a tsunami of submissions in response to the draft GGLMP. The experience in the wake of the Taipan closure (lots of venting on social media, calls for people to write letters to politicians and to PV, but most people assuming that others would do it and not bothering to write themselves, resulting in PV being pleasantly surprised at the lack of negative responses and consequently feeling emboldened) suggests that leaving it to others simply won't cut it.

We also need to keep pressure on politicians by writing letters asking for replies to specific questions. Letters that just 'spray' / vent about particular issues with no specific question asked, or reply required, are not likely to get past the Ministerial Secretary or even be seen by the Minister to whom the letter is addressed. There is a useful guide to letter writing to politicians that Mark Wood has penned that has been included in this *Argus*. Please read and feel confident to write to your local politician and/or relevant Minister.

The Committee has provided feedback to PV about the You Yangs Precinct Management Plan. Climbing doesn't get much of a mention in the Plan but the Committee deemed it was important that it provide some feedback to note that climbing has been, and continues to be, an important and legitimate recreational use of the Park. It is also important that, by our submission, we register that climbers in general and VCC in particular are important stakeholders to be consulted in any overarching management plans or major decisions affecting recreational users.

VCC has recently submitted a formal complaint to the Victorian Ombudsman's office (see vicclimb.org.au/news/) about what we believe to be PV's inappropriate handling of the planning, announcement and implementation of the climbing prohibitions in Gariwerd / the Grampians. We are still to hear back from the VO's office about whether this matter will be investigated further. The VO's office needs to prioritise or triage the many

complaints it gets—its decisions on what it will follow up are predicated, in part, on whether specific wrongdoings or failures to follow appropriate processes can be identified by the complainant(s) and also on the number of people complaining about and affected by the alleged wrongdoing. So folks, please seriously consider lodging a complaint of your own to maximise the chance that the Ombudsman’s office will investigate the complaints. (Lodge complaints via www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/complaints/ Additional documentation can be uploaded to this site to substantiate the complaint(s) made.)

The 3-month interim protection order that was granted for Dyurrite 1 (Brain Death Boulder at Dyurrite / Mount Arapiles) on 18 June has now expired. PV and Barengi Gadjin Land Council are in the process of looking at ‘now what?’ options for this site and others at Dyurrite/Arapiles. They expect, in the next few weeks, to schedule meetings to inform local district people about future plans.

Looking ahead to a time after COVID-19 restrictions, the club has been planning to resume social events, including club trips. As presaged in the previous *Argus*, we have managed to book two sites at Mt Buffalo for a week in late January/early February. Paula and Steve Toal have offered to run a club trip there, so watch out for details as the time draws closer.

KL



Taylor's Rock / Dec Crag, and the Brain Death Boulder. Photo: Leigh Hopkinson



MEDIA RELEASE

Victorian Climbing Club
P.O. Box 1725
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23rd September, 2020

Climbers launch legal action against Parks Victoria

Today, two renowned Australian rock climbers commenced a Court case against Parks Victoria to review its decision to deny them permission to rock climb at world-class climbing areas at the Grampians National Park in Victoria.

In February 2019, Parks Victoria announced the world's largest rock climbing bans, covering 551 square kilometres of the Grampians National Park and including most of the world-class climbing areas in the Grampians. These bans came without warning, following only a very limited consultation with a handful of climbers about some emerging concerns, and with no warning to, or consultation with, the communities that rely on climbers for their economic survival.

The President of the Victorian Climbing Club Inc, Kevin Lindorff, and one of its members, Glenn Tempest, made applications for permits to climb at specified areas within the banned areas at the Grampians. Their applications were refused.

The refusal of their requests to climb denied them procedural fairness as they were not given the opportunity to comment before their applications to climb were refused.

The case is listed for a directions at the Supreme Court on 28 October 2020.

UPDATES

New crag near Mt Beauty

The VCC Committee has recently approved a small amount of funding from the CliffCare Trust to support track development and signage at a new crag near Mt Beauty.

The creators of the crag have been working with DELWP to ensure appropriate access is developed. Once the works are complete we will bring you the full story with details of the new routes and hopefully some lovely pictures of the team involved.

If you live in the area and are interested in helping out, please contact Sheepy on 0415 655 202.

COVID-19 restrictions

For up-to-date info, go to [DHHS](#), [Parks Victoria](#)

Crag Stewards Victoria seeks formal recognition

Crag Stewards Victoria (CSV) has sought formal recognition from Parks Victoria in order to proceed with crag care and maintenance under its stewardship program.

In its proposal, CSV said it seeks 'to open a crucial line of communication between Parks Victoria and the climbing community. The sole purpose of the organisation is to care for and maintain the sites that climbers enjoy, preserving them now and for future generations. We strongly believe that recreational rock climbing can exist in an environmentally and culturally sustainable manner.'

CliffCare has endorsed CSV's proposal. You can read [the proposal](#) on the CliffCare website.

Goatfest

It's a week till Goatfest graces our screens! This year Goatfest is happening virtually on Saturday 10 October at 6.30pm. Tickets are available at [Eventbrite](#).

If you haven't entered yet, it's not too late. You can submit your film—max 15 minutes long—up until midday on Friday 9 October.

Announcements will be made via the [Goatfest FB page](#) where you can also see a multitude of previous Goatfest film submissions.

AGM HIGHLIGHTS



This year's AGM was held on Tuesday 29 September at 7.30pm via Zoom. It was a succinct and civil affair, done and dusted within an hour, with a solid turnout of 49 (not counting the Tempest's cat).

The Committee remains largely unchanged, a consistency that will be appreciated with legal action now underway. Kevin Lindorff retained the Presidency uncontested and Ben Wright was elected in as VP, also uncontested. Wei Chen will continue on as Treasurer, again uncontested. No one put themselves forward for Secretary, a role that will be decided among the ordinary committee members when they next meet. Cam Abraham, Matt Brooks, Claire Grubb and Richard Ham were all re-elected, and will be joined by Hywel Rowlands. Standing down were Paula Toal, James McIntosh and Phil Neville.

In terms of ordinary business, changes to the membership fees were approved (set at \$65 for ordinary members, \$48.75 for concession, \$97.50 for family and \$130 for affiliate). Changes to proxy voting were also approved, meaning that proxies will be able to place votes on the election of officers and ordinary members of the Committee in the future.

Reports in brief: President Kevin Lindorff thanked all the Committee members, especially outgoing VP Paula Toal, for their hard work in what had been a challenging year. Treasurer Wei Chen noted that both the VCC and CliffCare remained in a financially stable position. And Trip Coordinator Michael O'Reilly again made the call-out for more trip leaders when club trips resume. The reports can be found in full on page 26 of this *Argus*. Due to time constraints, the minutes will appear in the next issue and will also be posted online.

CLIMBING PEAK BODY PROPOSAL

First published on the VCC website on 15 September

To all VCC members,

I write this in the wake of the recent Zoom meeting (30 August) of interested climbing reps on the so-called 'Founding Council', to keep you in the loop.

At this meeting, Phil Goebel (Sport Climbing Victoria) and Andrew Knight (Outdoors Victoria) talked to the draft options paper that had previously been distributed to various climbing representatives, including members of the Rock Climbing Roundtable.

They talked briefly to the three options for a peak body that had been outlined in the draft paper, responded to questions on issues requiring clarification, and opened the discussion to the meeting attendees.

A number of points were made by these attendees including possible/probable next steps.

In the end, it was agreed that there needed to a few more steps in the evolution before individuals and clubs could make informed decisions about whether they wanted to be part of the sort of peak body being proposed (whatever it might look like). In particular there needs to be:

- Greater clarity about the aims and scope of the peak body (What will be its major areas of focus? What won't it try to cover?) Feedback this far suggests that it shouldn't organise indoor climbing comps—there is a perfectly good and capable organisation set up to do that (SCV). Nor should a peak body spend time and energy on such things as accreditation for climbing guiding—again, there is already a carefully conceived and structured organisation that does that. I, for one, suggested that it shouldn't try to be all things to all people, but should have a relatively narrow focus—e.g. advocacy for outdoor recreational climbing.
- Whilst there has been some attempt to articulate pros and cons of various models of a peak body, it was suggested and agreed that a more compelling case for a peak body needs to be clearly and more fully articulated (What is the problem(s) for which a peak body is the solution?) Part of this case would need to be concrete examples of 'runs on the board' by other recreational peak bodies (e.g. for caving, 4WDing, bush-walking, kayaking, etc) as well as by Outdoors Victoria—how has OV's

advocacy for the recreational user groups who are affiliated with it been of significant help to those groups?

- There also needs to be some other options, as I had raised with the VCC Committee (e.g. a 'no peak body' option and an option for an independent peak body that was not saddled, at least in the first year or two or three, with the financial impost of having to pay a significantly large salary for a person(s) to do much of the work).

So, next steps? Phil and Andrew will put a bit of work into providing more detail re the above points and then come back with another iteration of the draft. Eventually, there would also need to be detail related to proposed governance of such a peak body.

As I had already raised in previous conversations with Andrew and Phil, VCC would be very wary of the setting up of a peak body that granted equal voting rights to micro-organisations with memberships measured in dozens, compared to larger organisations such as ACAV and VCC with democratically elected leadership positions and many hundreds of financial members.

Before VCC commits to a peak body, in whatever form it might take, the aforementioned sorts of details would need to be provided and the VCC membership furnished with such detail before they could be expected to ratify any particular option.

KL



A different kind of climbing proposal. Photo: [India Earl](#)

A ROUGH GUIDE TO LETTER WRITING

If you haven't already written to politicians and/or Parks Victoria in response to the climbing prohibitions, please do! It's too easy to think that others have done this already, so there's no need. The more letters we can send, the better (ideally hundreds). VCC member Mark Wood shared his rough guide to letter writing on facebook—we've reprinted it below. (We also have a [form letter](#) available on our website.) You can find the Statement of Obligations Mark is referring to on Parks Victoria's website.

WRITING LETTERS TO MINISTERS AND POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES – A ROUGH GUIDE

Before you start:

- Know why you are writing -
 - If you write to Lily and ask what ParksVic are planning or doing, then your message will be bumped to ParksVic for the response.
 - If your concern is that ParksVic are not meeting their responsibilities as stated in the Statement of Obligations (the SOO outline PV obligations in relation to the land it manages), refer to that and explain why you believe that is the case.
 - Lily administers the Parks Victoria Act 2018, under Section 31 of the PV Act 2018 Lily issued a Statement of Obligations to set out the obligations that Parks Victoria has in performing its functions and exercising its powers in relation to the land it manages.
 - Read the SOO (it is not too long) and determine where you think Parks are not meeting their obligations. This is what you will ask the Minister. Why is she letting this happen as Parks should be letting her know (under section 5), and if there is a breach of their obligations the Minister should be stepping in.
 - If you are concerned about the local community in any way, then you should be writing to Emma Kealy who is the member for Lowan which includes, Arapiles and the Grampians.
 - If you have culture concerns, you would be addressing this to Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon. Gabrielle Williams.
 - Start thinking about who will proofread this for you. This will keep your ranting in check and generally make sure your letter makes sense. If it does not make sense to someone who knows you it will not to them. If your writing is unclear you will get a response that is in the favour of the receiver.

Date
Hon. Lily D'Ambrosio
Level 16, 8 Nicholson Street, East Melbourne, VIC 3002

Date
Ms Emma Kealy
114 Firebrace Street, HORSHAM, VIC 3400

Date
Hon. Gabrielle Williams
Level 22, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000

Give your letter a title that sums up your concerns "... .."

Introduce yourself, say who you are and why you have been inspired to write

Thank them for any action they have taken, or you have read about (if none don't bother, but it doesn't hurt to placate...), touch on why you think they are the right person to solve the problems as you see them.

e.g.

- *Lily: "Thanks for ... As Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change who must administer the National Parks Act 1975 and the Parks Victoria Act 2018 ... I believe ..."*
- *Gabrielle: " ... as Minister for Aboriginal Affairs responsible for administering the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 ... I believe ..."*
- *Emma " ... as the member for Lowan ..."*

Crunch time:

- What is the issue at hand? Paint the picture. Get rhetorical, impassioned (but be respectful to all involved - don't rant, maybe write out your impassioned rant and come back to it, ruthlessly cut out anything that may be deemed as offensive or off topic), don't write a bloody essay but get your point across, go for about a paragraph or two. This letter should fit on about a page (less is fine, your aim is to engage not bore).
- If there are supporting documents that is no problem, just keep them separate and refer to them.
- Finish this section with dot points (or questions) that each require a response from the reader.
 - The response you get will end up being to these dot points so make sure they are asking what you want and not able to be interpreted another way.
 - Each dot point should refer to the issue and why it is relevant to the reader that they address it.
- Consider using a structure like the following:
 - issue
 - background/problem/law/Government policy/analysis
 - remedy/requests for action

Headings help a lot. Not only for the reader but will help you sort out your thoughts. Dot points draw the reader's attention to your key points.

Finally, thank them for their time and express your faith in the process or some other flattery that indicates your good intentions.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Your Name
Address
Contact phone number

REFLECTIONS ON THE CLOSURE OF TAIPAN

On 2 September, *Vertical Life's* Simon Madden wrote an article, 'How to react to the closure of Taipan Wall?' You can read Simon's article [here](#). VCC President Kevin Lindorff offered his take on it in the comments, reprinted below.

It seems to be a natural human trait to view how the future will play out, or the likely actions of others, through the lens of what we dearly hope that future or future actions will be. Perhaps we have to have that optimism to prevent us falling into despondency and despair. But it can also lead to grave errors of judgement—the Neville Chamberlain 'peace in our time' responses to potential futures that were/are too horrible to contemplate.

In the bigger scheme of things, climbing prohibitions aren't up there with world wars or global pandemics. Yet to those for whom climbing is one touchstone for spiritual uplift and moments of lightness of being, its potential loss or diminution is horrible to even consider. We want to hang onto an alternative future where all will be well, even if somewhat different to how things are at present.

So we must, as many have suggested, hope for the best but plan for the worst. In the current climbing ban context, I think most climbers 'get it' that we need to take care that our planning for the worst does not itself help precipitate the worst. So some circumspection and diplomacy is critical. But that is different to doing nothing just because we are afraid that whatever actions we take may cause offence to someone.

Simon has argued that, 'There is no respectfully aiming climbing's guns at PV and not blowing up TOs... we have already seen how this 'we are attacking PV not you' mindset has been met by TOs, particularly in several exchanges on social media.'

I will respectfully disagree (though this may depend on what is meant by 'attacking'—we may be in furious agreement). There is a difference between being disrespectful to a person or organisation and being critical of what that person or organisation has done or is doing. As one of my Indigenous friends said to me (and these are the sentiments only—I don't pretend I can remember her words verbatim):

'If you challenge any of the current climbing bans, some Indigenous folk will automatically hate you for it; you have to remember that if the current bans on climbing in SPAs, for example, are stripped away, then they will feel



Photo: [Damien Ayers](#)

naked—they feel they would be left with no protections for cultural heritage. Others in our mobs will be more sanguine. Some of them are not too happy themselves with how PV have gone about things. They understand that there might well be other, better alternatives that still provide the cultural heritage protection that is needed. If there are legal challenges and PV are asked to change things, then most Indigenous folk will work with that and get on with it. So be it.'

We need to be able to work toward developing and articulating win-win alternatives that address the key concerns of Traditional Owners, land managers and recreational users. And we need to do it respectfully and with a willingness to listen. But that is not to say that we should put our critical faculties on ice just because some might not like what we have to say.

I would hate to think that we feel emasculated from articulating and working toward any alternative future that can provide strong protection of cultural heritage without requiring the current prohibitions that exist over vast swathes of Gariwerd. I would be particularly worried that we were reluctant to try to engage with land managers and Traditional Owners to provide considered input and help craft such possible futures, just because we fear that some individuals might feel threatened by any challenge to the current climbing prohibitions status quo that we might advocate, or believe that advocating constructive alternatives is somehow an attack on their aspirations.

The references in the article to the draft Greater Grampians Landscape Management Plan (and what these references say about our hopes for a better future), are interesting:

'We should give some time to see... what comes out of the new landscape

management plan and hope that it is some good for climbers and not only bad upon bad. That said, we should be prepared to fight hard in the event the draft management plan comes back and it's draconian, with little or no climbing returned... Our expectation is that cultural heritage and climbing can co-exist and that the management plan should allow as much climbing in Gariwerd as is respectfully and practicably possible.'

'PV could go some way to resetting the relationship between themselves and climbers by demonstrating a willingness to review and amend bans where appropriate by giving back access to areas that are deemed not to be culturally sensitive. It would demonstrate a willingness to move beyond their slurs and smears of climbers.'

A few thoughts on what past conversations suggest we can (and can't) reasonably expect to come out of the GGLMP:

'Requests to PV to reopen sites to climbing where those sites have already been assessed and no cultural heritage identified, and where there are no significant risks from climbing to the environment, have been rebuffed.'

'To date, it has been our view that until the research is complete and a draft plan developed, consultation with all interested parties carried out, and any adjustments made, changes to SPAs would not be appropriate.' (Carol Nichols, Director of Government and Corporate Relations, PV, March 31, 2020)'

'Included in the draft plan will be proposed management directions for climbing areas subject to cultural and environmental surveys in 2019. These proposed directions will address those areas surveyed which revealed cultural and environmental values, and those areas where no values were recorded. It has been communicated consistently to the rock climbing community that Parks Victoria and Traditional Owners will be making no amendments to the existing Special Protection Areas in the Grampians National Park until we have completed this assessment process in a coordinated and consistent manner, and finalised the draft GGLMP.' (Jason Borg, Regional Director, Western Region, Parks Victoria, August 7th 2020)

It is important to note that the GGLMP is supposed to be a 'road-map' of general management principles that forms a reference point or touchstone document to guide the more detailed decisions that PV will need to make in managing the Gariwerd day to day. The GGLMP will not be, was never intended to be, nor can it be, a detailed compendium of a huge range of management strategies individually tailored for each of the hundreds of

climbing sites in the Grampians landscape. According to PV themselves, such detailed information will NOT be collated in the GGLMP.

It is also noteworthy (as I noted in my President's column in the September *Argus*) that, to assess each site, PV needs to organise representatives for each of the three Indigenous 'mobs' to accompany PV staff and an accredited archaeologist to walk into the site and carry out the assessment. So far, in the last year and a half, they have carried out 125 site assessments (excluding the more recent assessments of Taipan and Bundaleer)—these have been sites that have been the 'low hanging fruit' i.e. sites that have relatively easy to access, mostly along good PV walking tracks. About half (62) of these sites are in the Mount Stapylton area, and many of these sites are very close to each other, significantly expediting the assessment process. In contrast, many of the sites still to be assessed require significantly more difficult (physically more arduous) access. I would be astounded if these could all be done 'in a coordinated and consistent manner' within three or four years.

So, since we are not to be allowed to climb at any sites that have not yet been assessed (and won't have been assessed by the time that the GGLMP sees light of day), and given the years that would seemingly be necessary to assess the myriad cliffs, buttresses and bouldering sites that haven't been yet been assessed by PV, it seems that we will be excluded from many such sites for years to come.

So, what can we hope to see in the GGLMP? Hopefully, some changes to SPAs in light of surveys/assessments that have been undertaken. But even these will be constrained in scope by a number of issues that still haven't been resolved.

For example, one of our concerns relates to the need for articulating consistent and transparent processes for establishing appropriate buffer zones around cultural heritage. At Bundaleer, for example, the cultural heritage has led to exclusions from the left end of the cliff but access allowed at the right-hand end. At Gilhams Crag, on the other hand, the cultural heritage is at the far left (northern) end of the crags whilst other crags such as the Chilly Bin, multiple hundreds of metres away to the right/south, are off limits, presumably because they come under the Gilham's Crag heading in climbing guidebooks. If these cliffs had been written up under separate cliffs, not shown as under a single Gilham's Crag heading, would access have been allowed or might it be in the future? These are the sorts of issues, at climbing sites right across the Gariwerd, which will no doubt take years to sort out. And meanwhile, it would appear, if we simply were to do nothing but rely on the GGLMP process to run its course as PV keeps telling us, we will be prohibited

from climbing at many sites (many still unsurveyed/unassessed and some surveyed but with no adequate delineation between where cultural heritage or environmental sensitivities exist and other cliff sectors in the area where they do not) well after the GGLMP is finalised.

One strong recommendation that has been made to PV is for the incorporation into the GGLMP of a clause that commits PV to a process where, BEFORE it makes any changes such as new set-aside determinations, or changes in how it applies the Regulations, it consults with any recreational user group that any such changes could impact on and explore a range of options together.

Arguably, if genuine consultation with climbing representatives had occurred before the current prohibitions were enacted and a range of possible options were examined (as distinct from PV informing climbers of decisions and actions already taken) then better solutions would have been possible and lots of angst and aggravation avoided.

Feedback from PV about this suggestion has been 'mixed' and it seems that PV's interpretation of what consultation means is part of the problem.

Presumably, we will not have long to wait to see the draft GGLMP. Please consider the points made (forewarned is forearmed) and ready yourselves to craft appropriate responses to what will be in the GGLMP, but also to what will not be (but, arguably, should be).

KL

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Re: Club Trips to Mt Buffalo

In the President's Report under Club Trips, there was suggestion that the last club trip to Mt Buffalo was some decades ago. This is not correct: club bookings at Mt Buffalo have been an annual event since at least 2001 (with the exception of 2017–2018). As noted on our website (vicclimb.org.au/events/mt-buffalo-nov2019/) the last trip to Mt Buffalo was November 2019.

Regards

Cameron

Womxn's Uprising Virtual Climbing Festival Wrap-up



On Saturday 5 September, I went to the Womxn's Uprising Virtual Climbing Festival—the first of its kind in the world. I still find it odd writing 'went to' and 'virtual', but I did feel like I'd been transported out of my own living-room for a while and, judging by the overwhelmingly positive response from the other participants, I wasn't alone. The WUVCF came at a time when locked-down climbers were craving connection with their passion.

Organiser Jo Lee was the dynamo behind the day, and she brought together such a stellar line-up of speakers it was difficult to decide which sessions to attend. I was struck by both the knowledge of the presenters and the real hunger of festival-goers to share, learn and grow in respectful ways.

Highlights for me included the Climbing QT's panel Ask Us Anything, which delved into the importance of creating safe spaces for people to be themselves. Connecting with our bodies and ourselves is an integral part of climbing—especially so for those

who are transitioning. Panelists spoke about ways organisations can be more inclusive of diversity (such as Climbing Anchors' decision to label gear 'high volume' and 'low volume' rather than M or F). As one panelist said, 'It's great to see what your body can do when its not viewed through the lens of gender.'

Nutritionist Amanda Watts's clinic was also a standout, with Amanda doing her best to condense decades worth of work on nutrition for climbing into an hour and a quarter. (Sadly, it turns out that coconut yogurt isn't really a yogurt. Not much calcium or protein. Sigh.)

And it was great listening to VCC life member and former Access and Environment Officer Tracey Skinner share some of her considerable knowledge about access in the panel Let's Talk About Poo (and other outdoor climbing etiquette), alongside VCC Vice President Paula Toal, and legendary Aussie climber Louise Shepherd.

Late in the day a lucky few got to watch Olivia Page's new film *Kakapo Crest*, a limited screening in keeping with distributor conditions. *Kakapo Crest* is part of the Gutsy Girl Adventure Film Tour—keep an eye on [this link](#) for details of sessions in Victoria.

Leigh Hopkinson

5 minutes with Jo Lee

Leigh Hopkinson spoke with the super inspiring Jo Lee about organising the Womxn's Uprising Virtual Climbing Festival (WUVCF) and what motivates her to create community.

Congrats on running a successful festival last weekend! It was fantastic to take part. Two things struck me: the wealth of knowledge of the panellists (and clinic athletes), and the hunger for spaces such as these to foster learning, growth and connection. Can you speak to this?



Photo: Dom Channon

The climbing community is evolving (here and around the world). It's no longer just about connecting to the outdoors and building relationships. It's more than just sending hard grades, being the strongest, or doing the most epic ascents. For a while now, there has been a need to engage in difficult conversations—the ones that don't get talked about. And in the likes of Black, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Lives Matter movement and the surge of anti-racism, anti-sexism and anti-ableism work, we know that the community needs safer spaces and inclusion for queer folks, adaptive folks and people-of-colour.

Most of the panelists and athletes that were invited to teach and share their knowledge are people that I've worked with regularly—they're people that live and breathe their experiences as a queer person, a womxn of colour and an adaptive climber. The athletes that ran the clinics are all experts in their own field and have been working with the community for most of their lives, so it was more about providing them with the platform to share what they know. (Womxn: a term adopted by Women Uprising to refer to all women, and people who identify as women inclusive of trans, non-binary, genderqueer and bi-gender womxn.)

What was your vision for the festival and what were your takeaways?

The festival was created as a space to allow womxn leaders and athletes to share skills and knowledge with other womxn. The intention was to empower womxn, encourage diversity and teach valuable life skills by creating a safe and diverse space for learning—all of which we've achieved and more based on the feedback that we've received post-festival.

Do you have any plans to hold the festival again next year, and what might that look like?

Haha, not unless I've got a team that can run a festival with me full-time. At this point in time, we will only have another virtual climbing festival if lockdown continues (fingers crossed it doesn't). I see a need to run a non-virtual event outdoors, however considering the issues surrounding access, I'd be more comfortable running smaller scale workshops that are more sustainable—less impact to the environment and climbing sites as well as adhering to COVID-19 guidelines.

Since arriving in Melbourne in 2015 you've started Women Uprising and run workshops, such as Trad is Rad and Cracks & Racks. What motivates you?

Empowering womxn with the skills, knowledge and confidence to make their own decisions outdoors. Most of the womxn I've met and spoken with were all introduced to climbing by their cis-gendered male partners and male friends. Where are all the womxn guides? Where are all the womxn teaching other womxn outside of an indoor climbing gym environment? There are a handful of us but not enough.

How important is it to offer women, and people who identify as women, these spaces? How did you come to this realisation?

Climbing is still a very male dominated sport, despite what other people say or think. Even if you regularly climb with a group of womxn, that doesn't mean that there's enough representation of womxn climbing in the outdoors. Sport climbing and bouldering is a slightly easier transition from climbing indoors, and the number decreases significantly when it comes to trad climbing. And this is just a representation of cis-gendered white womxn. When it comes to womxn of colour, queer and adaptive folks outdoors, it's reduced to a handful of us.

I ask why (a lot), and there's a lot of reasons for it. For example: getting mansplained at the crag; the language used around the crag that contributes to exclusion, including offensive and bigoted route names; having no access to purchase expensive gear, especially a trad rack; not having access to gear



Jo climbing at Wilyabrup, W.A. Photo: Krish Seewraj

that fits different body types; representation of only thin, tall, super fit white cis-gendered womxn portrayed in the outdoor media; white cis-gendered womxn in the positions of leadership at climbing gyms, as routesetters, as climbing coaches. Where are all the queer, adaptive, womxn of colour? Lack of mentorship is a big one, and the lack of contribution from womxn who have privilege to give and make space for under-represented groups. We as a community have a lot of work to do to make climbing outdoors a truly inclusive sport.

You've also been running a regular Friday night Zoom check-in during lockdown. What's lockdown 2.0 looked like for you?

Joblessness. I'm not a resident and on a temporary visa, so I'm not entitled to any form of government support. Good thing is that organising a festival is a full-time job! And it helps to keep the lights on at home. Our Friday night community check-ins are a way for us to stay connected—everyone's mental health has been affected and just seeing familiar faces and connecting with new people virtually, talking about dogs and food, having no agendas has been a good way to stay sane, and personally it's been harder for me in lockdown 2.0 than the first one. In spite of that, there have been heaps of amazing opportunities that have come my way, which wouldn't have happened if the pandemic didn't happen, so silver lining I guess.

Before arriving in Melbourne, you spent five years working and climbing abroad. Being on the road can be lonely. How did these years inform your drive to create Community?

The biggest challenge from travelling full-time is having to say goodbye to all the friends I've met on my journey, some of whom I'm still very close to—especially my girl friends. They've pushed me in ways that I won't push myself and in a way have contributed to founding Women Uprising.

Is there anyone in particular who inspires you? Any role models?

Too many to mention here—here's a highlight of a few amazing womxn that I've been religiously following and learning from the past year (you can also find them on Instagram): Coralie Fleming (they/she), Kathy Karlo (she/her), Mélise Marie (she/her), Shelma Jun (she/her), Juliet Amanda (she/her), Lor Sabourin (he/they), Marina Inoue (she/her).

What are some of your favourite places to climb?

Difficult question! Haha. My first love would be El Chorro in Spain, Geyikbayiri in Turkey. Here in Australia it's definitely Djurite (Arapiles) and Gariwerd (Grampians). Tassie!!

I saw you were set to run a Women's Outdoor Climbing Festival in Gariwerd / the Grampians in 2018? Did this happen?

Sadly not—we didn't get the funding from Pick My Project or the grant that we applied for. Neither did we find an insurance company that would be willing to insure us for an outdoor (bouldering excluded) climbing festival that's never been done before. There's a lot of logistics that happen behind the scenes to build the framework of an event like this, so without funding or insurance, we weren't able to go ahead in 2018. We're looking at ways an event like this can happen in the future, so if folx reading this have the means to support us logistically to pull this off, get in touch!

What's next?

Affinity Initiative. Founded on the basis of challenging the status quo in the outdoor climbing industry (I've recently realised that it isn't only the climbing industry that requires making big changes, it's also the outdoors in general) by elevating the skills and experiences of womxn of colour. The Affinity Initiative will be partnering with all levels of stakeholders in the outdoor industry to form strategic alliances that will contribute to change by increasing accessibility to the outdoors for womxn of colour and representing womxn of colour through diversity, equity and inclusivity in media and outdoor climbing communities. You can get in touch with us here: www.women-uprising.com

Climbing in Singapore



I spent last Christmas in Singapore, along with my extended family. The idea was to explore the place over a week. A 15km ride around Singapore harbour on a Segway proved interesting early in the visit, till I chased my daughter and crashed heavily to the ground, only to be run over by a cyclist coming the other way. My son-in-law Chris also fell off in front of a crowd later and I was thankful that I hadn't had a large number of folk around me as parts of the harbour were very busy.

Before our Segway adventure, we decided to try out Climb Central in the Kallang Wave Mall, near the Singapore Sports Hub and main sporting stadiums. (There are several other climbing businesses in Singapore too.)

Wandering around the area, we eventually found the climbing centre and signed up, paid reasonable fees, got fitted with kit and then waited for a safety briefing. I was really hoping I would pass, as some of my approaches to rope work are set in stone and perhaps from a while ago!

The instructor took about ten of us through the rules, providing sound advice. She then got us all to have a go on a smaller wall to one side. Then we were free to get climbing.

Climb Central is located inside a bustling shopping complex and weirdly as you climb up on some of the outer walls you can actually converse with shoppers only a few metres away, so it's easy to get distracted by specials and people wandering past watching you climb. I thought I should try a bit harder with such an audience.

The main walls are about fifteen to twenty metres tall and are generally set up for top roping. There is a lead climbing wall to one side and a spiral staircase that takes you to an upper landing where automated belay systems lower you back down gradually—I was very reluctant to just fall off and trust them, but they worked well. I did find the initial moment of getting my weight onto them disconcerting though, as I usually like to be lowered on a tight rope from the start of a lower-off.

Climb Central was very popular as there doesn't appear to be much in the way of real cliffs for climbing on the island and the interesting location adds an unusual dimension to the experience. We stuck to moderate routes, perhaps the equivalent of grades 10 to 15 most of the time. It was a lot of fun and well worth the visit.

Iain Sedgeman



*Top right: Iain and Chris at Climb Central;
Above: Chris on one of the bouldering walls, also at the venue*

AGM—PRESIDENT’S REPORT

This year has been a year of challenges.

It began on the back of unparalleled turmoil in the Victorian climbing community in 2019. After the shock announcement by Parks Victoria (PV) in February 2019 that climbing was prohibited in vast areas in the Grampians National Park, there was anger at PV for their lack of genuine consultation, feelings of helplessness among many climbers, and blame and recriminations among some about how it had come to this.

In the eyes of many, the access crisis brought into sharp relief a number of gaps or needs within the Victorian climbing community. These included:

1. The need for a dedicated Victorian access organisation that represented all Victorian climbers and advocated for access to climbing sites right across the state, working hand in glove with all clubs. The ACAV was envisaged, developed and put forward as such an organisation. There was undoubtedly much soul searching among VCC members about this proposal. Some felt that the VCC should continue to take a prominent—if not the pre-eminent—role in access advocacy, including countenancing, if necessary, legal challenges if negotiation failed; others believed that the VCC should maintain a prominent advocacy role but only pursue this via diplomacy and negotiation and not involve itself in any legal challenges. Cutting across these views were differing opinions as to the need for, and legitimacy of, an organisation such as the ACAV.
2. The need for a climbing peak body in Victoria. The CEO of Sport Climbing Victoria, Phil Goebel, had suggested this in the wake of various representatives from the media and government agencies contacting him about the prohibitions, mistakenly assuming he was the head of the peak body for climbing in the state.
3. The need for a different model of crag stewardship—one that would not be viewed as being aligned to just one club, was based on local area climbing volunteers and, because of this, would not be hamstrung by the financial impost of salaried positions, and could be truly effective across the diverse climbing regions right across the state.
4. The need for development and publication of comprehensive, research-based best-practice climbing management guidelines that would be a ‘touchstone document’ for climbing organisations and land managers across the state.

Into this context, the last VCC AGM delivered a Committee that was a mix of 'old' and 'new'—some committee members who had been on the VCC Committee the previous year or more and some who had not.

The new Committee began by focusing on trying to improve relationships with other climbing clubs and organisations, and advocating for access whilst still provide opportunities for club members to meet, socialise, train and climb together.

The Committee advocated for access via:

- its constructive input into the Roundtable meetings with Parks Victoria,
- on-the-ground meetings with PV representatives at the Grampians and at Mount Arapiles,
- reaching out to representatives of the relevant Indigenous mobs, and casting a critical eye over our processes and communications through the lens of reconciliation,
- writing letters to PV management and to politicians, putting forward the case for robust cultural heritage and environmental protection that did not require large-scale, administratively lazy blanket bans,
- presenting our case in the media for a more measured and more 'fine-grained' approach to climbing access,
- liaising with other recreational peak bodies,
- formalising our complaints about PV wrong-doings to the Victorian Ombudsman's office
- continuing with our support for environmental works and fostering environmental education by: continuing to support CliffCare initiatives; supporting the efforts of the new volunteer-based Crag Stewards Victoria, and supporting and making significant contributions of time and effort into developing the Victorian Climbing Management Guidelines.

In the first half of 2019, PV had suggested that VCC join with it in a formal mediation process. VCC agreed to this but PV delayed a start date for months. Then PV suggested that any formal mediation process be postponed until after the conclusion of the Roundtable meetings between climbers and PV (a process that was only belatedly set up by PV in the face of criticism by VCC and ACAV about the unrepresentative nature of the single voice given to climbers on the Stakeholder Reference Group for the Greater Grampians Landscape Management Plan). PV also shied away from VCC's suggestion that the Roundtable group inform the Greater Grampians Landscape Management Plan by making some joint recommendations about management of climbing in the Grampians. Lastly PV suggested that the VCC wait until the GGLMP draft was released before considering whether any mediation was still required.

Despite the alternative approaches to climbing management in the Grampians suggested by climbers—approaches based on more proportionate and less draconian measures that could still enable PV to meet its legislative obligations to protect cultural heritage and the environment—PV has not adopted a single constructive suggestion to rescind or ameliorate any of the prohibitions on recreational climbers. It has become apparent that PV has simply been stringing climbers along. The more time that continues to lapse since the set-aside determination was announced by PV in February 2019, the less likely any legal challenge to this determination will be allowed to pass first base with a judge, notwithstanding the ‘indulgences’ with regard to time that the VCC has obtained from PV.

Given all of the above, the VCC has recently filed a more narrowly targeted legal challenge (one that does not require any time-related indulgences) against PV. I’m confident that the Committee has pursued every avenue of negotiation available to it and that the decision to take legal action is a necessary next step, and one that has not been taken lightly. Given that we have been constrained from saying much about specifics in the lead-up to filing this challenge, I’d like to thank club members for their patience with, and confidence in, the Committee over many months.

Legal challenges notwithstanding, the VCC has continued, and will continue, to liaise positively and constructively with PV staff (and representatives of other land managers for that matter) ‘on the ground’. From the Grampians and Arapiles to the You Yangs, from Camels Hump to Mount Buffalo and Mount Beauty, the VCC continues to talk to land managers, to provide feedback regarding management plans and to work collaboratively in environmental stewardship initiatives.

On the social front, COVID-19 has certainly put the dampeners on what we have been able to do:

- The VCC has carried on with managing three climbing walls in the greater Melbourne area. These were well utilised prior to being closed to the public in April because of the pandemic. We will continue to manage these and will be able to reset and reopen at short notice when COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.
- Since the AGM in September 2019, the VCC was able to run 17 social events (mostly climbing trips) before COVID-related restrictions forced us to stop. Again, we look forward to resuming such trips and other events as soon as we are allowed, and have already started tentative scheduling.

We have remained cautiously supportive of the development of a climbing peak body and made constructive suggestions about how it might look and

operate. We have yet to give the club’s endorsement of this body—the devil will be in the detail—but remain guardedly optimistic that it can develop into a useful body for climbing advocacy.

In summary, the VCC (and CliffCare) is in a solid financial position, is able to and keen to confidently resume more crag-related environmental works and social events once COVID restrictions have been eased, has improved its links with a range of other climbing and non-climbing recreational groups, and has painstakingly developed a compelling legal case to hold land managers accountable and ensure they act in a proportionate and non-discriminatory manner in regard to climbing access and management. Additionally, the VCC’s contributions to the development of the [VCMG](#) has helped produce a document that, whilst still evolving, is one that we and the rest of the Victorian climbing community can be proud of.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for their hard work and support during a challenging year. Particular thanks to those who have been on the Committee but who, for various reasons, are no longer able to devote the time required to continue—their generous service to the club and the broader climbing community is much appreciated. Thanks especially to Paula Toal for her contributions, including time as Club President, in recent years. I wish all those on the new Committee every success.

KL

Victorian Climbing Management Guidelines



Compiled for the
Victorian Climbing
Community

Revision: V04

Published: 15 Sept 2020



Version 4 of the *Victorian Climbing Management Guidelines* is now up on the VCC and CliffCare websites. Please share with your networks—it’s intended to be an evolving document, so feedback is welcome.

Big thanks to Matt Brooks and the team for all their hard work to date.

AGM—CLIFFCARE REPORT

This year, COVID-19 restrictions have severely impacted what volunteer groups can do (particularly in relation to physically working together in working bees and carrying out the sorts of tasks that CliffCare has typically done in conjunction with land managers). Given the difficulties of ensuring employee and volunteer safety in the light of state-wide restrictions, Parks Victoria had to put a halt to such collaborative work six months ago and this hiatus continues.

Nonetheless, CliffCare has still managed to oversee the completion of the major work on the Central Gully Track (Dyurrite / Mt Arapiles)—part repair and part realignment of the track—from the top down to below the Mari area. We were able to source stone and have it delivered to the bottom of the track and have volunteers begin the task of lugging this to points along the track where it was needed before the restrictions came into force. Walter Braun, our stone-mason extraordinaire, has done a great job as usual, supported of course by the volunteers who were able to help—thanks in particular to Cameron Abraham, Geoff Gledhill, Claire Grubb and Steve Monks for their ongoing assistance to Walter to keep this project rolling. Walter has a preference to realign rather than repair the bottom section of the track but this will be contingent on a cultural heritage assessment of the proposed new alignment.

After approaching Parks Victoria early in the year about some maintenance work that the VCC saw as being required at a number of cliffs in the Grampians, we organised a 'walk around' at The Watchtower, near Halls Gap, with some Parks Victoria staff, including Area Chief Ranger Grampians, Rhonda McNeil. PV were receptive to collaborating with CliffCare to do repair work on the track and 'staging areas' along the base of the crag. Subsequently, COVID-19 has put plans on hold but all parties are hopeful that this project will be able to be developed, post-pandemic.

On a related front, we have been supportive of the notion of a volunteer-based organisation such as the nascent Crag Stewards Victoria, utilising the knowledge and passion of local area cliff stewards, covering all of Victoria, and working with land managers to help preserve the environments of the places where we love to climb or boulder.

CliffCare has traditionally done this, though there has been a significant associated financial impost to fund an Access and Environment Officer and, because so much has fallen on the shoulders of that one person, it has made it difficult to sustain a truly state-wide (rather than Grampians/Arapiles)

focus. So we have watched with significant interest to see whether the CSV model could work. Again, COVID-19 has severely hampered the sorts of collaborative projects that land managers such as Parks Victoria are able to do with organisations such as CliffCare and CSV but the signs are promising.

CSV has been talking to PV about restoration/stabilisation works at Camels Hump (Mt Macedon) and CliffCare has been approached by Kiewa Valley climbers about financial help with track works associated with the development of a new crag in the Mt Beauty area, so there will no doubt be lots of potential projects to keep both organisations busy and productive—we will continue to monitor and keep an open mind when considering how CliffCare and CSV can best work together in the future.

Given that CliffCare has maintained a healthy bank balance over the last financial year (see the Treasurer's report), it is well placed to embark on future environmental projects with confidence.

Kevin Lindorff
Board member, CliffCare



Walter's magic on the Central Gully Track. Photo: Claire Grubb

AGM—TRIP COORDINATOR'S REPORT

1. Club Trips

There's no hiding from the fact that the 2019/2020 climbing year has been very different. Our usual extensive calendar of events and trips was paused in late March due to the first COVID-19 restrictions and lockdown. Unfortunately we haven't been able to resume trips since then. As a result, the VCC organised and ran a total of only 20 trips and events in 2019/2020. You can see from the attached List of Trips/Events for 2019/2020 that we had to cancel 7 trips that were already advertised on the VCC website due to COVID-19. Several other planned trips were never advertised.

When the first lockdown was finished and there were less restrictions in place, I spent a significant amount of time and energy in researching and developing a draft Return to Play COVID Plan for the VCC. This plan needed to be completed and independently signed off before club trips and activities could resume. My draft plan had been submitted to the VCC Committee and was being finalised when the COVID-19 case numbers began to rise again and the second lockdown was imminent. The good news is that we will be able to use this draft plan for when we are allowed to resume club trips and events in the future.

One of the likely changes to existing guidelines for trips will be that our trip leaders will need to have a current first aid certificate. For those trip leaders not having a current first aid certificate, the Committee has an existing policy of providing some financial support for trip leaders to complete a short first aid course. This is to support the trip leaders who do not obtain a first aid certificate annually through their workplace. The Committee will contribute towards the cost of your first aid course in return from a commitment for you to lead a minimum of two trips in the coming 12 months. These trips can be either day or weekend trips. Please contact me for more details.

Thank you once again to all of the very generous trip leaders and organisers for their efforts. These trips vary in participation rate, but the standout highlight was Adam Merrick's Kids Climbing Weekend on the Grand Final Long Weekend last year. This is a Joint Event with the WVCC. There were 57 participants with even more keen to join in the fun. This time Ollie Sherlock wasn't around to help in the lead-up organising of the trip, but was able to attend.

In the 6 months of trips that were planned it was clear that the ongoing access issues in the Grampians/Gariwerd had a significant impact. Previously popular and semi-regular trips didn't happen. Many previously popular crags

for VCC trips were now not an option. One positive is that the VCC returned to Eastern Wall after many years with Rhys Boyar leading a trip in to that extensive cliff. Hopefully we'll be able to run more trips into previously less popular cliffs in the future.

Obviously there's the option of more day and even weekend trips to the crags closer to Melbourne, once the COVID-19 restrictions have ended. The skills needed for climbing on granite at Black Hill, the You Yangs, Mt Alexander, Mt Beckworth and Mt Buffalo might need a bit of revisiting and polishing soon.

I'm still concerned about the small number of members willing to be trip leaders. The club needs to recruit more trip leaders from within our membership. The popular Trip Leaders Rewards Raffle was introduced to help encourage members to offer to be trip leaders. This year it was decided not to run the Trip Leaders Rewards Raffle. This was because of the limited number of trips this year, as well as the severe financial difficulties being experienced by the VCC's generous sponsors.

2. Club Trips and Events for 2019–2020

Please see the attachment for the details of the trips and events offered during 2019/20.

3. Learn2lead Courses

The Learn2Lead Course was officially offered twice this year. I had a significant amount of interest in these courses, but at short notice it was impossible to get the necessary 4 participants to sign up. Hopefully when climbing returns we'll be able to resume these courses with a longer advertised timeline.

While the organisation and coordination of these courses takes a significant amount of my time, they provide an extremely important service for our members. Also, offering these courses to our members forms an important part of our risk management process. Please contact me if you are interested in completing one of these courses in the future.

4. Trip Leaders Manual

A project of mine for a while has been the writing, compiling and editing of a VCC Trip Leaders Manual. The initial draft of this manual was initially shared with the Committee, and then with trip leaders at the Trip Leaders Skill Share Night held in March 2018. The main purpose of this manual is to clarify and document roles and responsibilities, as well as to make the task of being a VCC trip leader easier. The manual has been written with new or inexperienced trip leaders in mind, as well as the more experienced trip

leaders. It is intended to answer or clarify most questions or concerns that that trip leaders have been asking. Experienced trip leaders should also read the manual thoroughly as some processes have changed over time. Due to a range of reasons I still haven't finished the editing and hyperlinking. Hopefully it will be finished and available to trip leaders shortly.

Michael O'Reilly, VCC Trip Coordinator, 29 September 2020

VCC Club Events and Trips 2019 - 2020							Events and Trips that occurred.
Date(s)	Trip/Event	Leader(s) or Organiser	Participants	Additional Notes	Injuries/Accidents?		
24/09/19	VCC AGM	VCC Committee	NA	The Grandview Hotel, Fairfield	NA	1	
27-29/09/19	Kids Climbing Weekend (GF Long Weekend)	Aidan Merrick	57	Ollie will also be attending.	None reported	2	
27-29/09/19	September EOM@Araps/Djurite & Working Bee	Paula & Steve Toal	15	Cam organising the Working Bee	None reported	3	
28/09/19	CliffCare Working Bee (Rock Hauling)	Cameron Abraham	22	About 1 hour of rock hauling	None reported	4	
28-27/10/19	October EOM@Araps/Djurite	Peter Upton	11	Didn't happen due to the weather	None reported	5	
28/10/19	CliffCare Working Bee (Rock Hauling)	Cameron Abraham	NA	Joint trip with Sydney Rockies	NA	6	
1-5/11/19	Blue Mountains	Dave Scarlett	3	Joint trip with Sydney Rockies	NA	7	
7/11/2019	Midweek@the YouYangs POSTPONED	John Feils & Michael O'Reilly	NA	Wet weather forecast!	NA	8	
10/11/2019	Bouldering@Mt Beckworth	Ben Wright & Evan Campbell	6		None reported	9	
22-23/11/19	Mt Buffalo	Peter Upton	21	Pre-booked campsites	None reported	10	
30/11/2019	November EOM@Araps/Djurite & Working Bee	Dave Scarlett	14		Minor injury to #####	11	
30/11/19	CliffCare Working Bee (Rock Hauling) POSTPONED	Cameron Abraham	NA	Cam was called away.	NA	12	
7-9/12/19	Djurite/Arapiels in December	Kevin Landoff	11		None reported	13	
28/12/2019	Carnels Hump	Michael O'Reilly	11	Lower Cliff & Omega Block	None Reported	14	
7-12/01/2020	Learn2Lead Course POSTPONED	Michael O'Reilly	NA	Mt Arapiels	NA	15	
16/01/2020	Twilight Carnels Hump (Back Wall)	Janet Cunningham & Michael O'Reilly	14	Back Wall	None reported	16	
7-12/01/2020	Learn2Lead Course POSTPONED	Michael O'Reilly	NA	Mt A rapies	NA	17	
24-25/12/2019	January EOM@Araps/Djurite	Matt Brooks	25		None reported	18	
30/1/2020	Golden Hex Photo & Video Social Night	Phil Neville & Committee	NA	Maori Chief Hotel, Stn Melb	NA	19	
15-16/02/2020	Central Gramplains	Peter Upton	6	Heidelberg Rd Bridge/Merr Creek	None reported	20	
29/02 - 1/3/2020	February EOM@Araps/Djurite	Janet Cunningham	16		None reported	1	
14-15/03/2020	Eastern Wall	Rhys Boyar	9		None reported	2	
21-22/03/2020	Mt Alexander - Dog Rocks	Leigh Hopkinson & Nic Loh Rescheduled by Peter Upton & Rhys Boyar	9		None reported	3	
28-30/03/2020	March EOM@Araps/Djurite	Peter Upton	Cancelled on website			4	
30/03/2020	Bluesone Bouldering #2	Michael O'Reilly	Cancelled on website			5	
31/03-5/4/2020	Learn2Lead Course	Michael O'Reilly	Cancelled on website			6	
10-19/04/2020	Moonarie	Rhys Boyar	Cancelled on website			7	
9-10/05/2020	An Anapies Trip - Passive Protection Only	Peter Upton	Cancelled on website			8	
16/05/2020	Bouldering @ Mt Beckworth	Phil Neville	Cancelled on website			9	
	All other discussed tentative trips and planned trips were not advertised on the website.					10	
29/09/2020	VCC AGM on Zoom	VCC Committee	NA	ON ZOOM	NA	11	
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*The pre-COVID normal: plenty of club trips!
Ben in his happy place at Moonarie in October 2017; EOM @ Araps March 2018.*



AGM—TREASURER’S REPORT

Treasurer’s Report—VCC—2019/20:

VCC’s financial position continues to remain stable. A summary of the accounts is outlined below. Detailed information is included within the attached Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet.

Income:

- VCC’s income is mainly derived from membership fees (\$22k), which dropped by 30% compared to 2018/19. This is mainly due to a number of members joined for one year only in 2018/19 prompted by the Grampians access issue. In addition, VCC Committee approved a three-month hold on membership renewals in 19/20 due to COVID-19 pandemic. As at 22 Sept 2020, we had 269 ordinary members, 80 family, 49 concession, 1 affiliate and 22 life members.
- Income from bouldering walls route setting and services (\$4k) is 55% lower than last year, due to the delay in issuing the invoice in 19/20.

Expense:

- The biggest expense for VCC are the payment for the Access & Environment Officer (\$6k). This is significantly lower than last year (\$29k), due to her resignation.
- *Argus* production cost (\$5k) was 56% higher than last year, as several issues in 18/19 were not delivered.

Net Surplus for 19/20 was \$2k.

Assets:

- \$89k in cash and term deposits.
- \$21k in inventory/guidebooks.

Liabilities:

- Unexpended grant was \$2k.

Net Assets as at 30 Jun 2020 was \$109k.



Treasurer's Report—CliffCare—2019/20:

CliffCare's financial position remains stable and 2019/20 was relatively uneventful. A summary of the accounts is outlined below. Detailed information is included within the attached Profit & Loss statement and Balance Sheet.

Income:

- CliffCare's income is mainly derived from donations and fundraising (\$10k), both of which were significantly lower than previous year, due to interest in the Grampians access issue subsiding.

Expense:

- The main expense in 2019/20 was \$4k for website redevelopment.

Arapiles Central Gully Phase 2:

- \$13k was spent in 2019/20 under this project, funded by Pick my Project grant income.

Net Surplus for 19/20 was \$5k.

Assets:

- \$70k in cash and term deposits.

Liabilities:

- Unexpended grant was \$19k for Pick my Project grant.

Net Assets as at 30 Jun 2020 was \$50k.

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Accrual Basis

Victorian Climbing Club Inc.
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of June 30, 2020

	Jun 30, 20	Jun 30, 19	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
1110 - Victorian Climbing Club	21,578.93	39,370.78	-17,791.85	-45.20%
1120 - Access Trust Fund	25,389.95	0.00	25,389.95	100.0%
1160 - Short Term Investment	42,467.81	41,828.16	639.45	1.50%
Total Chequing/Savings	89,436.49	81,198.94	8,237.55	10.10%
Accounts Receivable				
1200 - Accounts Receivable	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00	-100.0%
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	6,000.00	-6,000.00	-100.0%
Other Current Assets				
1301 - Pending Register Now	283.00	638.00	-355.00	-55.60%
1500 - Inventory Asset				
1510 - VCC Guidebooks				
15102 - The Black Guide	6,548.24	6,591.47	-43.23	-0.70%
15104 - Arapiles/Djurite	1,409.88	1,472.32	-62.44	-4.20%
15105 - Mt Buffalo 5th edn	6,224.25	6,790.09	-565.84	-8.30%
15106 - Mt Difficult	5,450.85	5,464.48	-13.63	-0.30%
15108 - SE Grampians	522.00	527.00	-5.00	-1.0%
15109 - SW Victoria	12.02	12.02	0.00	0.0%
15110 - Victoria Range	396.00	398.00	-2.00	-0.50%
Total 1510 - VCC Guidebooks	20,563.24	21,255.38	-692.14	-3.30%
1520 - Other Books				
15201 - Rocclimbs Around Melbourne	65.33	114.35	-49.02	-42.90%
15202 - Arapiles Selected	621.30	130.80	490.50	375.0%
15205 - Arapiles Pocket Companion	10.90	32.68	-21.78	-66.70%
15206 - Central Grampians	63.27	0.00	63.27	100.0%
Total 1520 - Other Books	760.80	277.83	482.97	173.80%
1530 - Merchandise				
1532 - Mugs	64.00	96.00	-32.00	-33.30%
Total 1530 - Merchandise	64.00	96.00	-32.00	-33.30%
Total 1500 - Inventory Asset	21,388.04	21,629.21	-241.17	-1.10%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian Climbing Club Inc.
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of June 30, 2020

	Jun 30, 20	Jun 30, 19	\$ Change	% Change
1700 - Advance Guide Book Production				
1710 - SW Victoria	616.64	616.64	0.00	0.0%
Total 1700 - Advance Guide Book Production	616.64	616.64	0.00	0.0%
Total Other Current Assets	22,287.68	22,883.85	-596.17	-2.60%
Total Current Assets	111,724.17	110,082.79	1,641.38	1.50%
TOTAL ASSETS	111,724.17	110,082.79	1,641.38	1.50%
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable				
2000 - Accounts Payable	0.00	349.00	-349.00	-100.0%
Total Accounts Payable	0.00	349.00	-349.00	-100.0%
Other Current Liabilities				
2200 - Unexpended Grants				
2210 - Health and Safety	1,693.64	1,693.64	0.00	0.0%
2220 - HPHP Grant Burnley Bouldering	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.0%
2230 - Wilson Ave Route Setting	54.85	54.85	0.00	0.0%
2240 - Burnley Funds	612.24	612.24	0.00	0.0%
Total 2200 - Unexpended Grants	2,360.76	2,360.76	0.00	0.0%
2550 - Tax Payable	204.57	-3.93	208.50	5,305.30%
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,565.33	2,356.83	208.50	8.90%
Total Current Liabilities	2,565.33	2,705.83	-140.50	-5.20%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,565.33	2,705.83	-140.50	-5.20%
NET ASSETS	109,158.84	107,376.96	1,781.88	1.70%
EQUITY				
3000 - Opening Balance	86,254.30	86,254.30	0.00	0.0%
3100 - Retained Earnings	21,122.66	25,529.17	-4,406.51	-17.30%
Net Income	1,781.88	-4,406.51	6,188.39	140.40%
TOTAL EQUITY	109,158.84	107,376.96	1,781.88	1.70%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian Climbing Club Inc.
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2019 through June 2020

	Jul 19 - Jun 20	Jul 18 - Jun 19	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4100 - Membership Fees	22,181.81	31,886.34	-9,704.53	-30.40%
4140 - Interest Earned	639.45	704.37	-124.92	-18.30%
4160 - Learn to Lead	0.00	4,700.02	-4,700.02	-100.00%
4180 - Advertising Income	45.45	-454.45	499.90	110.00%
4200 - Club Event Income				
4240 - Access Fund	30.00	0.00	30.00	100.0%
Total 4200 - Club Event Income	30.00	0.00	30.00	100.0%
4500 - Sales				
4520 - Guide Book Sales	636.84	466.39	170.45	36.60%
4530 - Guide book sales via OSP	1,318.82	2,019.99	-701.17	-34.70%
4550 - ClifCare Merchandise	58.19	32.73	25.46	77.80%
4580 - Postage & Packaging	27.29	22.73	4.56	20.10%
Total 4500 - Sales	2,041.14	2,541.84	-500.70	-19.70%
4600 - Programme Income				
4630 - Wilson Ave Route Setting	3,830.00	8,597.28	-4,767.28	-55.50%
Total 4600 - Programme Income	3,830.00	8,597.28	-4,767.28	-55.50%
4700 - ClifCare Receipts				
4720 - Deductible Gifts	2,821.50	7,791.50	-4,970.00	-63.80%
Total 4700 - ClifCare Receipts	2,821.50	7,791.50	-4,970.00	-63.80%
4800 - Transfer from CC Trust				
4820 - A&EO - Salary	715.07	2,692.49	-1,977.42	-73.40%
4840 - A&EO - Travel	0.00	62.40	-62.40	-100.0%
4850 - A&EO - Expenses	0.00	120.00	-120.00	-100.0%
4890 - Other	16.00	8.00	8.00	100.0%
Total 4800 - Transfer from CC Trust	731.07	2,882.89	-2,151.82	-74.60%
4900 - Transfers from CC Fund				
4920 - A&EO - Salary	1,118.28	4,208.70	-3,090.42	-73.40%
4940 - A&EO - Travel	0.00	134.16	-134.16	-100.0%
4950 - A&EO - Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4980 - Other	124.95	0.00	124.95	100.0%
Total 4900 - Transfers from CC Fund	1,243.23	4,342.86	-3,099.63	-71.40%
Total Income	33,563.65	63,052.65	-29,489.00	-46.80%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian Climbing Club Inc.
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2019 through June 2020

	Jul 19 - Jun 20	Jul 18 - Jun 19	\$ Change	% Change
Cost of Goods Sold				
5000 - Cost of Goods Sold				
5020 - Guide Books	1,052.99	1,087.26	-34.27	-3.20%
5060 - Postage & Packaging	0.00	19.72	-19.72	-100.0%
5110 - ClifCare Merchandise	32.00	8.00	24.00	300.0%
5000 - Cost of Goods Sold - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total 5000 - Cost of Goods Sold	1,084.99	1,114.98	-29.99	-2.70%
Total COGS	1,084.99	1,114.98	-29.99	-2.70%
Gross Profit	32,478.66	61,937.67	-29,459.01	-47.60%
Expense				
6000 - Access & Environment Officer				
6010 - Salary & Allowances				
6012 - Salary - VCC	5,861.69	24,744.18	-18,882.49	-76.30%
6014 - Salary - ClifCare Trust	715.07	2,692.49	-1,977.42	-73.40%
6016 - Salary - ClifCare Fund	1,118.28	4,208.70	-3,090.42	-73.40%
Total 6010 - Salary & Allowances	7,695.04	31,645.37	-23,950.33	-75.70%
6020 - Travel Expenses				
6022 - Kilometrage - VCC	0.00	1,428.96	-1,428.96	-100.0%
6024 - Kilometrage - ClifCare Trust	0.00	62.40	-62.40	-100.0%
6026 - Kilometrage - ClifCare Fund	0.00	134.16	-134.16	-100.0%
Total 6020 - Travel Expenses	0.00	1,625.52	-1,625.52	-100.0%
6040 - Other A&EO Expenses				
6042 - Other Expense - VCC	0.00	120.00	-120.00	-100.0%
6044 - Other Expense - ClifCare Trust	0.00	120.00	-120.00	-100.0%
6046 - Other Expense - ClifCare Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total 6040 - Other A&EO Expenses	0.00	240.00	-240.00	-100.0%
Total 6000 - Access & Environment Officer	7,695.04	33,510.89	-25,815.85	-77.0%
6050 - Superannuation	0.00	3,006.31	-3,006.31	-100.0%
6100 - Argus Production				
6120 - Editor	4,400.00	2,980.00	1,420.00	47.70%
6130 - Printing	337.26	180.92	156.34	86.40%
6140 - Postage	483.13	172.35	310.78	180.30%
Total 6100 - Argus Production	5,220.39	3,333.27	1,887.12	56.60%
6200 - Club Event Expenses				
6240 - Refreshments	27.25	0.00	27.25	100.0%
6270 - Learn to Lead Expense	0.00	4,690.90	-4,690.90	-100.0%
Total 6200 - Club Event Expenses	27.25	4,690.90	-4,663.65	-99.40%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian Climbing Club Inc.
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2019 through June 2020

	Jul 19 - Jun 20	Jul 18 - Jun 19	\$ Change	% Change
6320 - Advertising	310.73	480.00	-169.27	-35.30%
6340 - Bank Service Charges	352.64	343.55	9.09	2.70%
6390 - Fees				
6391 - RNow Membership Processing	829.35	1,156.56	-327.21	-28.30%
6392 - RNow L/L Processing	0.00	130.55	-130.55	-100.00%
6393 - RNow Guidebook Processing	0.60	4.29	-3.69	-86.00%
6390 - Fees - Other	59.20	0.30	58.90	19,633.30%
Total 6390 - Fees	889.15	1,291.70	-402.55	-31.20%
6400 - Insurance				
6402 - Public Liability	2,808.89	2,688.95	119.94	4.50%
6403 - WorkCover	197.60	191.90	5.70	3.0%
Total 6400 - Insurance	3,006.49	2,880.85	125.64	4.40%
6410 - Legal Cost	4,610.05	0.00	4,610.05	100.0%
6420 - Membership Promotion	135.25	72.31	62.94	87.0%
6460 - Postage and Delivery	794.39	591.48	202.91	34.30%
6480 - Printing & Reproduction	217.69	211.81	5.88	2.80%
6520 - Subscriptions	609.09	120.00	489.09	407.60%
6540 - Telephone & Internet	426.31	0.00	426.31	100.0%
6560 - Treasurer's Honorarium	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.0%
6570 - Stock Adjustment	0.00	0.02	-0.02	-100.0%
6600 - Programme Expense				
6620 - Burnley Bouldering Wall	107.27	0.00	107.27	100.0%
6630 - Wilson Bouldering Wall	0.00	314.98	-314.98	-100.0%
6640 - Footscray Bouldering Wall	0.00	271.88	-271.88	-100.0%
Total 6600 - Programme Expense	107.27	586.86	-479.59	-81.70%
6700 - Transfer to CliffCare Trust				
6749 - Other	29.09	5,032.73	-5,003.64	-99.40%
Total 6700 - Transfer to CliffCare Trust	29.09	5,032.73	-5,003.64	-99.40%
6750 - Transfers to CliffCare Fund				
6751 - Deductible Gifts	3,741.00	7,791.50	-4,050.50	-52.0%
Total 6750 - Transfers to CliffCare Fund	3,741.00	7,791.50	-4,050.50	-52.0%
6850 - CliffCare Fund Expenses				
6851 - CliffCare Fund Postage	124.95	0.00	124.95	100.0%
Total 6850 - CliffCare Fund Expenses	124.95	0.00	124.95	100.0%
Total Expense	30,696.78	66,344.18	-35,647.40	-53.70%
Net Ordinary Income	1,781.88	-4,406.51	6,188.39	140.40%
Net Income	1,781.88	-4,406.51	6,188.39	140.40%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian CliffCare Trust
Balance Sheet Prev Year Comparison
As of June 30, 2020

	Jun 30, 20	Jun 30, 19	\$ Change	% Change
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Chequing/Savings				
1110 - Victorian CliffCare Trust	44,508.48	14,114.83	30,393.65	215.30%
1120 - Victorian CliffCare Fund	19,522.59	58,447.90	-38,925.31	-66.60%
1160 - CliffCare Fund STI	6,398.89	6,301.16	97.73	1.60%
Total Chequing/Savings	70,429.96	78,863.89	-8,433.93	-10.70%
Total Current Assets	70,429.96	78,863.89	-8,433.93	-10.70%
TOTAL ASSETS	70,429.96	78,863.89	-8,433.93	-10.70%
LIABILITIES				
Current Liabilities				
Other Current Liabilities				
2150 - Burnley Wall	72.34	72.34	0.00	0.0%
2200 - Unexpended Trust Grants	905.60	905.60	0.00	0.0%
2220 - OFACS Small Equipment	630.00	630.00	0.00	0.0%
2270 - Anchor Replace & Rebolt Trust				
Total 2200 - Unexpended Trust Grants	1,535.60	1,535.60	0.00	0.0%
2300 - Unexpended Fund Grants				
2320 - Pick my Project - Central Gully	19,214.99	32,399.99	-13,185.00	-40.70%
Total 2300 - Unexpended Fund Grants	19,214.99	32,399.99	-13,185.00	-40.70%
2500 - Tax Payable	-6.46	-1.96	-4.50	-229.60%
Total Other Current Liabilities	20,816.47	34,005.97	-13,189.50	-38.80%
Total Current Liabilities	20,816.47	34,005.97	-13,189.50	-38.80%
TOTAL LIABILITIES	20,816.47	34,005.97	-13,189.50	-38.80%
NET ASSETS	49,613.49	44,857.92	4,755.57	10.60%
EQUITY				
3000 - Opening Balance	20,463.50	20,463.50	0.00	0.0%
3200 - Retained Earnings	24,394.42	-10,332.06	34,746.48	335.70%
Net Income	4,755.57	34,746.48	-29,990.91	-86.30%
TOTAL EQUITY	49,613.49	44,857.92	4,755.57	10.60%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian CliffCare Trust
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2019 through June 2020

	Jul 19 - Jun 20	Jul 18 - Jun 19	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4100 - Restricted Funds				
4120 - Deductible Gifts	8,150.14	28,290.74	-20,140.60	-71.20%
4190 - Interest Income	135.22	138.21	-2.99	-2.20%
Total 4100 - Restricted Funds	8,285.36	28,428.95	-20,143.59	-70.90%
4200 - Unrestricted Funds				
4260 - Fundraising	1,444.91	9,556.89	-8,111.98	-84.90%
4280 - Other Income	1,250.00	5,000.00	-3,750.00	-75.0%
4290 - Interest Income	30.59	5.26	25.33	481.60%
Total 4200 - Unrestricted Funds	2,725.50	14,562.15	-11,836.65	-81.30%
4300 - Grants				
4340 - Mt Arapiles Central Gully	13,185.00	0.00	13,185.00	100.0%
Total 4300 - Grants	13,185.00	0.00	13,185.00	100.0%
Total Income	24,195.86	42,991.10	-18,795.24	-43.70%
Expense				
6100 - Bank Service Charges	13.52	26.87	-13.35	-49.70%
6300 - Education & Advocacy				
6310 - A&EO Salary	1,118.28	3,215.15	-2,096.87	-65.20%
6320 - Travel	0.00	134.16	-134.16	-100.0%
Total 6300 - Education & Advocacy	1,118.28	3,349.31	-2,231.03	-66.60%
6400 - Fundraising				
6420 - Advertising	0.00	550.00	-550.00	-100.0%
6430 - A&EO Salary	0.00	1,196.95	-1,196.95	-100.0%
Total 6400 - Fundraising	0.00	1,746.95	-1,746.95	-100.0%
6500 - Payroll Expenses				
6510 - A&EO Salary	715.07	1,495.54	-780.47	-52.20%
6520 - Travel	0.00	62.40	-62.40	-100.0%
6540 - Expenses	0.00	120.00	-120.00	-100.0%
Total 6500 - Payroll Expenses	715.07	1,677.94	-962.87	-57.40%
6640 - Postage and Delivery	124.95	0.00	124.95	100.0%
6690 - Telephone & Internet	4,038.14	0.00	4,038.14	100.0%

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Accrual Basis

Victorian CliffCare Trust
Profit & Loss Prev Year Comparison
July 2019 through June 2020

	Jul 19 - Jun 20	Jul 18 - Jun 19	\$ Change	% Change
6700 - Fund Programme Expense				
6716 - Arapiles Revegetation Project	0.00	199.32	-199.32	-100.0%
6730 - CliffCare Education Project	245.33	0.00	245.33	100.0%
6736 - Arapiles Central Gully Phase 2	13,185.00	1,159.97	12,025.03	1,056.60%
6770 - Grampians Rehabilitation	0.00	104.26	-104.26	-100.0%
Total 6700 - Fund Programme Expense	13,430.33	1,443.55	11,986.78	830.40%
Total Expense	19,440.29	8,244.62	11,195.67	135.80%
Net Ordinary Income	4,755.57	34,746.48	-29,990.91	-86.30%
Net Income	4,755.57	34,746.48	-29,990.91	-86.30%

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Turning Points

'The Confession' by Steve Morris

In my mind at least, I have achieved 'legend in my own lunchtime' status. However, I have a confession to make that I never thought I would share. More of that later.

Two climbs hold special places in my trophy cabinet: Elephant Slide (17) on the Elephants Hide and the The Frog (16) at Mt Bundaleer, both in the Grampians. I led both climbs with my lifelong climbing buddy, Sam North. Sam has always performed at a higher level than me because of his tenacity and natural talent. On both occasions, I was in the zone and led these two run-out climbs with a confidence that far exceeded my expectations. Sam's celebration of my success both times has meant the world to me and I guess the saying is true: 'every dog has its day'.

Yet for some reason I kept my climbing capped to 17 and under (and not just to write a book). If I put myself on the psychologist's couch for one moment to honestly explore my climbing, it would be to admit I have never really pushed myself to fall. If compelled, I would confess that falling equals failure in my mind. Glenn Tempest once said to me that if I wanted to climb higher grades, I needed to practise falling and understand the consequences, and that type of training would yield improvement and ultimately success. I've snubbed that sage advice, perhaps looking for a purer goal than just numbers. Alex Lowe was selling gear at a trade show once and said, 'All this gear is mostly for show, true security comes from not falling off'. This resonated with me. And being a gear retailer myself, I could appreciate the irony.

My climbing logbook was testament to my passion for moderate-grade lead climbing, arbitrarily capped at grade 17 without falling. My admission is that it was a single experience on a climb at 'the Mount' that shaped my habit. I lost my mojo on a barely known grade 16 climb called The Confession at Mt Arapiles. This is a 45m delicate slab climb, 10m to the right of Watchtower Crack. I placed many small wires in the first 35m and felt calm. But the next 10m was a blank arete with no protection. The only salvation was traversing to anchor chains at the end of the pitch. I survived, apparently.

I think we can take calculated risks when we have an end goal in sight. Clipping those rap chains never felt so good. Apart from having a small vomit in my mouth, for a nano second I felt like Alex Honnold, in control and totally confident in my own ability. In reality, though, I am Steve Morris and my brain is wired differently.

My shriek of success was overshadowed by an internal breakdown. The Confession had spooked me. I have replayed that hypothetical 20m fall on a brass RP many times over in my head. Each time I shiver with the probable outcome, however, it's pointless worrying about something that did not eventuate. Yet we all do it—the 'what-if' scenario has the potential to last a lifetime.

Seven years ago, I sought redemption when I decided to once again lead a grade

16 at Mt Arapiles. This time I lead the first pitch of Brolga (16) on the right Watchtower faces. This beautiful slab was a life goal that I kept putting aside due to a fear of my own malfunction. That fear came to nothing. It was a joy to experience this climb with my son John for my 50th birthday, providing a fitting salute to The Confession next door. Once again, I led without falling. This is how I want to climb and I have no regrets. The truth is, I'm more than happy just being out on the rock.



The R/H Watchtower faces is one of Steve's favourite areas to climb at Araps

Steve Morris and his son John are the authors of the book 17 Down Under, a celebration of moderate grade climbing in Victoria grade 17 and under. Their second book, 17 Down Under Australia, will be released in 2022. Steve is also the owner of Rock Hardware in Bendigo.



YOUNG CLIFFHANGERS

How to help young climbers avoid regret and thrive

It's been found that people regret what they don't do more than what they do. Today I'll run through some reasons why our young climbers may not act, yet might regret it later—and how this can hold them back from thriving as climbers and as people.

You'll also discover great insights from incredible climbers you can use to help your young climber thrive. These practical tips can be useful when approaching routes for the first time, when climbing outdoors with limited opportunities to send, in competitions, and in many other situations.

Three common reasons people don't act:

1. They crave social acceptance
2. They're afraid of failing
3. Because change is hard.

Crave social acceptance

Deep down, we all want to be accepted. Young climbers have been conditioned to seek our approval since they were babies. They look to us to see if we're happy with what they've done or said—they want to be loved.

It's a part of being human that can be traced back to our ancestors. Belonging to a group helped our ancestors to stay alive—it was easier to survive attacks and harsh environments together than alone. Today, the consequences are not as fatal when we step away from the crowd, yet the safety and love we feel as part of a pack never leaves us.

Our young climbers are especially sensitive to rejection and loneliness. For instance, when they train hard for competitions while their friends are shopping. Or when they don't send a route during a session which seemed easy to everyone else.

How to help young climbers feel socially accepted

- Encourage them to socialise with other climbers who understand the climber's life
- Show love, support, and compassion—no matter what
- Surround them with people who share the positive values that will help them thrive, as climbers and as people.

For instance, Tommy Caldwell aims to share the values he's gained

from years of climbing, including ascending the Dawn Wall. He wants his kids to learn 'optimism, perseverance, dedication, and the importance of dreaming big'.

Fear of failing

No one likes to feel stupid or a failure. It comes back to social acceptance: our young climbers want to feel included and to fit in. To be part of a group because that makes them feel safe, protected and validated. Loved.

When there's a chance our young climbers could fail, they may avoid trying or giving their best effort. Yet what they can achieve will be limited if they're afraid to fail. They'll never find their potential if they're crippled by failure.

How to help young climbers overcome a fear of failing

- Give them encouragement and love—no matter what
- Help them reframe negative thoughts about failure so it helps rather hinders
- Keep the fun in climbing.

Kim Jain's attitude: 'Being number one is not my goal. My aim is to do my best in every moment... I want to enjoy and perform to my maximum at every competition.'

Meanwhile Alex Honnold puts on a 'mental armour' where he makes himself cross the threshold of fear, over and over again.



Kim Jain in the 2010 World Cup qualifiers

Change is hard

Back in the caveman days, survival was about getting food and shelter. Now we might think we've progressed, but really we're still fixated on being comfortable. Feeling secure and protected.

When we have enough to survive and survive well, why would we screw with that? It's easier to stay comfortable with certainty than face the unknown because we think we'll be better off.

It's scary for young climbers to avoid stepping out of their comfort zones. It takes courage and a leap of faith. But when done often, it will build confidence.

How to help young climbers deal with change

- Help them focus on what they will gain rather than what they may lose

- Remind them of the times they dealt with change well
- Help them see change as a process not an event
- Give them support, love, compassion.

To deal with the change and pressure of climbing in competition, Adam Ondra says 'it's very important to do some kind of exercises, mostly based in yoga or meditation. That helps me to relax and be confident.'

Alex Honnold embraces change: 'For me that normally means climbing new styles or trying intimidating routes, but sometimes getting outside of my comfort zone means having hard conversations or thinking about things that I would rather ignore... Embrace discomfort as an

opportunity for growth...'

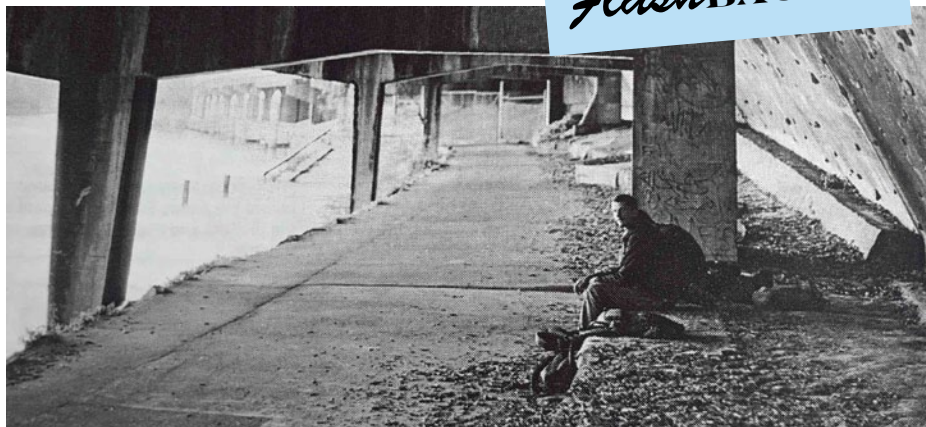
Summary

People regret what they don't do more than what they do. Three common reasons people don't act are because they want to be socially accepted, they fear failure and they find change hard.

You've learned a few practical tips today, including wonderful insights from the world's best climbers. With your ongoing love, great people around them, keeping the fun in climbing and a positive mental attitude, your young climbers can avoid regret and thrive as climbers and as people.

Cynthia Marinakos

FlashBACK



to the July 2000 issue of the *Argus* and the early days of Burnley. Chris Shepherd put up the main traverse in 1992 with rocks from Airey's Inlet and Bell's Beach, later replaced by holds donated by the Mill. Photo: Daniel Cooper

NEW ROUTES AND BETA

Mt Arapiles

The Pinnacle Face

Aphrodite's Girdle 95m 14

The spectacular final pitch is reminiscent of nearby Aphrodite; well worth the approach.

1. 50m—Start up the Green Singer for 6-7m then continue diagonally left across the wall to blocky ledges and a belay. You should now be below the left edge of the main headwall, and somewhere near the dead tree bridging the chasm to your left.
2. 15m—Steeplly up on jugs to the next ledge system.
3. 30m—Above is a distinctive deep line choked by a protruding block. Ignore this and climb the dramatic sinuous corner system to the right, on the left prow of the headwall.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 4/8/20

Campbell's Kingdom

The following climbs are on the right side of Campbell's Kingdom, in the vicinity of Captain Zigzag (ref Louise's guide, page 218). They are short but offer an afternoon of fun, with a wide range of cute moves.

Captain Zigzag Crag

Wheel of Miss Fortune 12m 16

The prominent orange corner immediately right of Captain Zigzag, gently past the millstone block at half height, then up headwall.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 25/8/20

Ulló Ulló Ulló 12m 17

Innocuous-looking jam crack/corner on the buttress a few metres right of Wheel of Miss Fortune.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 25/8/20

Brumby Cull 12m 12

Central line. Short corner, jam over bulge and finish up front of summit block.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 17/8/20

Shut the Gate 12m 11

The left-hand of twin lines. Getting started is probably the crux.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 9/9/20

Cardboard Cowboy 12m 14

The right-hand of twin lines 3-4m right of Brumby Cull. Lovely technical moves from start to finish.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 17/8/20

Last Tango with Captain Zigzag 12m 12

Take the cracked arete right of Cardboard Cowboy, to a gleeful finale.

First ascent: Geoff 'Twinkle Toes' Lierse, Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, 9/9/20

Isolation Therapy 13m 12

Around right, on the shady side of Captain Zigzag Crag facing the Deep South, is a neat little corner leading to a groove up the wall.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 9/9/20

Memory Lane

This is the long steep gully of ancient callitris trees immediately left of Captain Zigzag Crag. There are rock walls, buttresses and pinnacles bounding each side of this gully. The best orientation point is the obvious grey corner of Cornercopia, halfway up the left (shady) side of the gully.

Cornercopia 17m 13

The prominent corner—has a bit of everything: corner, jams, laybacking, bridging, step onto hanging arete, slab, and an overhang or two to finish.

The descent is just as complex—we avoided the temptation to jump across the gap because the landing is severely undercut.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 1/9/20

Bulging at the Seams 17m 15

A nice companion climb to Cornercopia. Follow the seam in the wall left of Cornercopia, over the lusty bulge and continue via an easy slab to the top.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 4/9/20

Auld Lang Syne 13m 12

On the opposite side of the gully from Cornercopia, and slightly uphill, is a neat little pinnacle featuring a square-cut flake buttress. Auld Lang Syne takes the line behind the tree immediately left of this pinnacle.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, 4/9/20

Hiraeth 13m 15

Start on wall right of Auld Lang Syne. Bouldery moves lead into clean left-facing corner on pinnacle. Short headwall to finish.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, 28/8/20

Toska 13m 13

Boulder up between Hiraeth and callitris tree, past block and up frontal seam.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, 28/8/20

Mono no Aware 13m 9

Right-facing line 1m right of callitris—a mirror image of Hiraeth, but easier.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Ray Lassman, 28/8/20

Marble Run 17m 10

Orange corner downhill from Hiraeth etc, and directly opposite Cornercopia.

First ascent: Keith Lockwood, Geoff 'Viking' Lierse, Ray Lassman, 1/9/20

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to new and returning members

Brett Mason
Jonathan & Sarah Lucy
John Fells
Ian Filby
Roark Muhlen-Schulte
Craig West
Ross Taylor
Justin Foo
Marcus McMahon
James McIntosh
Fil Kindblad
Glen Donohue
Mike Rockell
Adam Straw
Hayden Tweedley
Aaron Wain
Steven Wilson
Ryan Pauligk
Victa Tam
Kent Paterson

Celebrating our life members

Bill & Cheryl Andrews
Tony Brotherton
Peter Canning
Rupert Freeman
Geoff Gledhill
Peter Jackson
Keith Lockwood
Jacqui Middleton
David Mitchell
Stan Mizon
Clive Parker
Barry Revill
Iain Sedgman
Tracey Skinner
Simon Todman
Michelle Tusch
Peter Watling
Peter Watson
Ben Wright

Life members in memoriam

Chris Baxter
Eddy Rawlins
Michael Stone

VCC SUPPORTERS

*The following climbing gyms offer VCC members concession entry
Discounts are also usually available on memberships and 10-visit passes
Some of the gyms offer discounts in their gear shops*

Bayside Rock Carrum Downs
www.baysiderock.com.au



Cliffhanger Altona North
www.cliffhanger.com.au



Gravity Worx Coburg
www.gravityworx.com.au



Hardrock CBD
www.hardrock.com.au



Hardrock Nunawading
www.hardrock.com.au



The Lactic Factory Abbotsford
www.thelacticfactory.com.au



Northside Boulders Brunswick
www.northsideboulders.com



Northside Boulders Northcote
www.northsideboulders.com



North Walls Brunswick
www.northwalls.com.au



The Rock Adventure Centre
Geelong
www.rockadventures.com.au



Urban Climb
Collingwood
www.urbanclimb.com



La Roca
Oakleigh
www.laroca.com.au



*Please support these gyms as they support the VCC and Cliffcare
Show your VCC Membership Card to obtain discounts*

VCC SUPPORTERS

*The following retailers offer discounts to VCC members
These discounts are usually 10% off RRP or 'non-sale' prices
Contact individual retailers for more details and specials*

Bogong Equipment

Melbourne CBD
www.bogong.com.au



The Wilderness Shop

Box Hill
www.wildernessshop.com.au



Arapiles Mountain Shop

Natimuk VIC
Phone: (03) 53871529



Climbing Anchors

Online Store Coffs Harbour, QLD
www.climbinganchors.com.au
Contact Steve for 10% discount



Rock Hardware

Online Store Bendigo, VIC
www.rockhardware.com.au
Contact Steve for 20% discount



Open Spaces Publishing

Online Store Natimuk VIC
www.osp.com.au
Contact OSP for 15% discount



BJR Climbing Equipment

Online Store Blackheath, NSW
www.bigjohn.com.au
10% discount, including resoles



Mosaic Myotherapy

Coburg & Richmond Clinics
www.mosaicmyotherapy.com.au
\$10 off all appointments and rehab equipment & supplies



Other retailers may offer a discount to VCC members. Show your VCC membership card and ask!

*Please support these retailers as they support the VCC and Cliffcare
Show your VCC Membership Card to obtain discounts
Call the online retailers before ordering*

GOAT OF THE MONTH!

October's goat: the billy goat of Black Hill, catching a few rays.
Always a joyous sight to see this fella at the crag!



Photo: Tully Summer

Yes it's Happening! Virtually coming to
a room, any room near you.

Saturday, 10th
October
6.30pm

GOATFEST
2020

