

# Climbers Voice

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Australian Climbing Association

Spring / Summer 2019 Vol 01

# CLIMBING

## ADVOCACY

### the ACA & a Vision for the Future



David Reeve

It's as if we have awoken from a dream. After a decade of advocating for climbing access in the State of Queensland, after many years of struggling to convince the climbing community that access was not something that can be taken for granted, we awake to find the structure of the ACAQ being mirrored across the other States. Quite suddenly, and certainly quite unexpectedly, it would seem, we find we are moving toward a national ACA organisation.

Maybe it is the old truism, "you don't know what you have until you lose it", that is playing out in response to the access crisis in the Grampians. Maybe, it is more than that. Maybe we are getting better at articulating the complexity of access to public lands. Whatever the reason, the growing engagement of the climbing community with access issues is timely, and absolutely essential, if future generations of Australians are not to be denied access to great Australian crags.

Because climbing occurs predominantly on the public estate, it is inextricably linked to issues of public policy. This fact draws us into the rough and tumble of the political world, and the need to interact with the machinery of government. This world is a jungle. If you have ever felt that the traditional sports wars of the climbing community breach reasonable behaviour, then you would not survive the bureaucratic/political jungle with its smiling tigers, and serpents that slither on their bellies. This world is not your typical nice day at the crag. Yet it's a world we must enter, because, located there are the levers of power that ultimately decide who climbs and who does not.

This is not to say that within the machinery of government there are not good people; people that have our interests at heart. It certainly isn't futile to spend time in consultation with the appropriate executive departments. This, we should do and more, but, we need to be mindful that the hydra has many heads, that the bureaucracy has broad interests that transcend those of the individual; interests that sway with the ebb and flow of the political seas. Against this background, we should realise that the concerns of climbers are, at best, very small ripples in choppy seas, and that, right now, the zeitgeist is driving political aspirations that will have a profound impact on climbing access in the years to come.



The first of these aspirations is the commodification of the values of the National Parks to provide a neatly packaged eco-product, a quasi-wild experience, for city elites and overseas visitors. The second is to commodify Aboriginal Cultural Heritage as value-add to the former products. In the face of these big-ticket items, the climbing community will struggle to get traction. Of course, we could go down the rabbit hole and discuss interminably the rights and wrongs of the matter with Alice, and risk the unpredictable judgement of the Queen of Hearts, or we could pin our faith in the State Constitutions. I say we shun that fickle Queen and her Court of Public Opinion, and instead, seek the resolution of these difficult issues from the Australian courts of law.

ACA needs to work with the system of laws, not the system of people. It is laws that will set the stage on which future others will play for long after mortality has silenced the voices of the self-important and strident. 🐸

**“...the growing engagement of the climbing community with access issues is timely, and absolutely essential, if future generations of Australians are not to be denied access to great Australian crags.”**

Monique Forestier on Whistling Kite, Frog Buttress.  
Photo © Simon Carter.



Photo © Justin Foo

# Do the Right Thing

- Consider other users, not just climbers
- Park and camp in designated areas
- Observe all regulations for campfires and firewood collection
- Wherever possible keep to existing trails and hard surfaces
- Carry out all rubbish and don't leave gear (eg: pads or draws) behind
- Dispose of human waste properly
- Think about the wildlife and avoid damaging plants and soils
- Do not interfere with or climb near cultural heritage sites
- Clean up chalk and tick marks wherever possible
- Avoid climbing on soft rock types after rain
- Avoid large group sizes, keep the noise down and no music
- Observe all current access regulations and closures
- Know the local ethics for the places you climb
- Use, install, and replace bolts and fixed anchors responsibly

# KIDS on the ROCKS



## Climbing is a Family Affair

**S**o you have a new kid and think your climbing life is over? There are lots of outdoors sports entirely incompatible with children - think scuba diving, mountain biking, mountaineering, white water kayaking and canyoning. Luckily for us, it is actually possible to climb as hard as you did pre-kids - whilst bringing them along for the ride. Well maybe not all types of climbing - but if you like chasing grades and staying fit you are in luck. There are three stages of kids and climbing; immobile, mobile and junior climber. This article will explore the problems and joys associated with each.

But first let us start with a few home truths. Despite modern equipment, climbing can still be a risky sport if things go wrong. It's probably no more risky than going for a drive or riding a bike - but there is an integral risk.

If you choose to take your kid to a climbing area you must accept the risk - and most importantly accept the full responsibility of your kid around other climbers at the crag. It is not some random strangers responsibility to chase down your escaping kid or for them not to drop rocks onto your kid. I've seen a Dad install a pop-up crib for a newborn right under the most popular route at the Greek limestone mecca of Kalymnos, which consists of huge hanging tufas, some of which have broken off in the past. Absolute insanity and which is extremely uncomfortable for every one else at the crag. Don't be that guy.

Also, don't think about doing long and/or dangerous routes with sketchy trad gear with your kid in tow. Their attention span is limited and things can go wrong on the ground at



any time. You need the capability to bail from the route you are attempting - or at least clip in hard and let the belayer sort out the calamity. "I need to do a poo!" is not what you want to hear when runout above an RP 2 and the kids spare clothes are half an hours walk away. It is also not cool to put yourself into a dangerous situation where your screaming or shaking will upset your children. They don't want to see mum or dad get hurt or scared. Also consider that if other (childless) climbers are doing that sort of thing it is probably best to move to a different area - not complain. It's your kid and it's not their problem. Short story is - stick to single pitch safe routes that you can bail off quickly.

This article is going to focus on how to manage kids when you only have two adults. Climbing with three climbers is a breeze since two just climb normally and one does the babysitting.

### **Immobile**

So you have a baby and still want to climb? Great, but don't set your sights on anything too far away or too big. A carrier that holds the baby on your front or back is vital for long

walk-ins. When you get to the cliff it's easy to fashion a nest made from an adult down jacket. The number one danger to any baby is rockfall. While it's important to choose your crag wisely, crags with known loose rock or many people are best avoided. At the crag it is important to position the baby well away from the direct line of fire, often under an overhang at the base of the cliff or off to one side of whomever is climbing above. I've heard stories about climbers finding a sleeping baby stashed in a small cave 5m up a route in Italy - with no parent in sight! The other thing to watch out for are dogs. Some people leave their unleashed pets roaming so it's a good idea to make sure that your baby is within easy reach.

**"Of course the secret to making a wayward child remain locked in position has nothing to do with ropes and a lot more to do with smart phones. Oh the shame..."**

### **Mobile**

As soon as kids learn to crawl and walk it opens up a whole new set of problems. Suddenly the area you choose to climb at is much more important. Helmets are mandatory - rockfall is the obvious problem - but also unsteady legs and sharp rocks that litter the base of cliffs are an obvious nasty lobotomy-inducing trip hazard. There can be no drop-offs below the belay ledge (The Blue Mountains are notoriously bad for this). Some parents (who me?) have been known to harness their kid up to a long leash - but let me tell you a story about that! My kid managed to slip the leash as a 2 year old and



dash off into the bush at high speed. My wife's maternal instincts set in, she took me off belay in a heartbeat mid route (third bolt up a Glen classic) and dashed off to recapture the escaping child. Not exactly an ideal situation.

Dangers you might not think about are climbers stripping routes of gear and taking pendulum swings that could knock your kids to the ground - or even worse knock them over a cliff edge. Another one to keep a close eye on is the child moving in front of the belayer and risking a collision with a moving belayer should the leader fall. Two year olds will inevitably want to "help" by holding ropes and copying parents belaying. This is not great for fast clips! Kids love pulling down on ropes so keep an eye, not only on your rope, but on on them pulling down other peoples ropes. Of course the secret to making a wayward child remain locked in position has nothing to do with ropes and a lot more to do

with smart phones. Oh the shame, but it certainly works incredibly well. Download a few apps of their favorite TV show and you will get at least 20 minutes of blissful quiet climbing pleasure. It certainly works - Every. Single. Time.

A hammock is also a great tool in the child minding arsenal. Not only is it a good way of making sure they are comfortable, it also offers wind and sun protection - and they can even have a midday nap if required. I carry a light trad track and slings to rig the hammock in suitable spots - even at sport crags. Kids love helping to thread slings and clip carabiners together. Once the kid can fit into a full body harness they will greatly enjoy swings set-up from top-ropes set through anchors on steep routes. Just watch out for the trees!

## Junior Climber

Three year olds can start taking the first steps to climbing via top-roping - easy slabs with closely spaced holds are best. Climbing next to them to make them feel safe is important (preferably on another rope). Don't push your kid into fear - keep it fun. It's wise to fix the rope behind your child (most full body harnesses have a rear attachment point). This stops their prying fingers from opening biners or untying knots! Kids coordination isn't great when they are young so make sure they are wearing long pants and long sleeves. You can buy tiny climbing shoes - but unless you have cash to burn they will outgrow them every six months. Cheapy street shoes are fine until they really decide to get serious. We all dream of having a kid who grows up to be our climbing partner. Chances are they will just want to play rugby and Playstation... good luck! 🍀

All photos © Simon Bischoff

# GRAMPIANS

## CLIMBING BANS

Mike Tomkins gives us the lowdown

### Anti-Climber Culture

The perfect storm hit when the new Chief Operating Officer Talbot learned of a peculiar anti-climber culture in the PV Halls Gap Office. Local climbers had been aware of a certain nastiness for some time as several local PV staff members were climbers and had suffered for it. In 2018, Aboriginal Rangers were taken to a handful of climbing sites by a senior PV Ranger and the scene was set for Talbot to launch Operation Smear or 'demonise the climbers'. Talbot had the perfect way to mitigate the threat of fines from Aboriginal Victoria on charges of failing to protect cultural heritage – just blame the climbers for everything.

### ACAV formed

The ACAV was formed to address this new regime by holding PV to account using legal measures if necessary, to uphold the public good. Heritage sites are indeed precious and vulnerable, but climbers are only a minor worry compared with day tourists and feral animals. The cultural sites are all at ground level and under major threat from casual visitors and goats rather than from climbers. The trail-head 'no climbing' signs are completely inadequate. We expect a far more detailed approach to land management to protect the park and its precious assets.

### Legal Challenge

Six months on, with no sign of meaningful consultation with PV or with Traditional Owners, ACAV offered a raft of initiatives to Parks Victoria with a comprehensive offer to help sort

Photo © Simon Carter

**D**uring 2017 Parks Victoria underwent a change in its attitude towards climbing. We learned this from correspondence received under the Freedom of Information Act. By February 2019, cups of tea around the campfire had morphed into a heavily adversarial approach from Parks Victoria. The Victorian Climbing Club was taken by surprise and bravely tried to work through the issues without realising that it was now dealing with a completely different land management style. The new broom at PV was the self-professed monetiser, Simon Talbot. PV desperately needed to cut costs and climbers were in the crosshairs.

out this mess. On 2nd September 2019, ACAV put this forward in the form of a legal challenge as the bureaucratic force had simply brushed off all previous communications. The ACAV proposed win-win solutions including an Environmental Master Plan, ISO31000 risk assessments and a Victorian Climbing Management Plan. This package is designed to protect cultural heritage, the environment and climbing in a fully integrated manner using world's best practice. Unfortunately, Parks Victoria continues to double down on the hard-line approach. We must now let a judge rule on this. The court can subpoena any document that is relevant. The public service will be laid bare. This is a crossroads moment and we hope that, in the future, park users and TOs can look back at this time with great satisfaction.

### **Ban Status - Sept 2019**

At the 8 focus sites (Gallery, Millennium, Man Hands, Little Hands, Billywing, Gondwanaland, Billimina and Manja) there are regulatory signs. These bans have come about following cultural heritage concerns. The regulation validity will be tested in court and a more suitable regulation is a likely outcome. In the meantime, there is an overriding issue of respect at these 8 sites. We don't know how we may be causing harm and no information has been made available. We would like PV to make more effort to manage these sites to properly respect them and protect them from all visitors. We would advise that climbers should not climb at these focus site locations. Elsewhere across the vast Special Protection Areas, climbers have been 'asked' not to climb. We have voluntarily stayed away to show respect for proper process. Meanwhile, Parks Victoria has put forward community engagement sessions, stakeholder reference groups and even a new rock climbing round table. I have sat in several of these 'collaboration' meetings. I have seen lip service and a fierce determination to muzzle climbers and keep everything secret through archaic Chatham House Rules. The sad truth is that Parks Victoria knows very little about rock climbing and there is no apparent willingness to learn.

### **Where Do We Stand?**

Two petitions were raised by the climbing community in March 2019. The online version currently sits at 30,000 signatories. The climbing community requested meaningful consultation plus formal permission to "responsibly climb in Special Protection Areas until a new Park Management Plan is implemented". Climbers have respectfully stayed away from 550 sq km of SPA to ensure that 'delicate access negotiations' were not compromised. This area, equivalent to 22,000 Melbourne Cricket Grounds has been described as the world's largest climbing ban. This "ban" is really a bluff by lazy land managers, and it does not protect the vulnerable areas. PV's Legal Manager John Stevens recently stated: "it is only at these eight sites, where the signage is in place, that PV is currently undertaking enforcement activities pursuant to the Regulations."

As the climbing community begins to understand the weakness of PVs position in calling for these bans, it is inevitable that people will recommence climbing in the SPAs. Regardless of where you climb, SPA or non-SPA please tread lightly, cooperate with Rangers and be respectful if approached. 🙏

**"Heritage sites are indeed precious and vulnerable, but climbers are only a minor worry compared with day tourists and feral animals.."**

# ARAPILES

## Trouble in Paradise?

**M**ount Arapiles is without a doubt the most famous rockclimbing venue in the southern hemisphere and is arguably one of a handful of the best trad-climbing cliffs in the world. Over the last almost 60 years tens of thousands of Victorian, interstate and international climbers have spent countless hours enjoying the legendary rock quality of its steep orange walls. The lure of Arapiles and of the nearby Grampians has resulted in a rural success story as large numbers of climbers moved into the once fading town of Natimuk turning it into a vibrant and growing community. There is a decades-old joke of an Aussie climber visiting Queenstown (in New Zealand) who walked into a outdoor gear shop and asked for directions to their best local cliff. The immediate response was, 'Yeah, bro, that would be Arapiles, just over the ditch'.

So, it was with no surprise that climbers from across the world have reacted with more than just raised eyebrows over the recent rumors that similar rock climbing bans to those that

have occurred in the nearby Grampians National Park may be on the cards. Right now it is important to note that the rumors are exactly that. Parks Victoria have not issued any official comments relating to any form of forthcoming climbing restrictions. What has changed is that the Barengi Gadjin Land Council (BGLC), who are the Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) to Mount Arapiles – Tooan State Park, have announced that a series of cultural heritage surveys will be undertaken at Arapiles starting this Spring. Climbers welcome these cultural heritage surveys and see them as important to furthering the understandings of the original aboriginal peoples and their connection with the land.

Climbers have long seen themselves as responsible stewards of Arapiles and their extensive (some would say microscopic) knowledge of the area will be on offer to the BGLC. 🤝

# Five Codes of Ethics

# BOULDERING

Words and photos © Matthew Tait

**B**ouldering, arguably the purest form of climbing, is a style of rock climbing which primarily takes place on boulders. These boulders can be anywhere from a couple metres high to the size of a small house. The appeal of bouldering lies in it's simplicity. Start here ... perform a series of intense and physically creative moves between rock features ... then top out. Bouldering is also about exploring natural landscapes, looking for new problems and sharing the experience with friends.

There are very few restrictions associated with bouldering, which is one of the reasons why I love it so much. But with increasing numbers of boulderers hitting the crags, it is becoming more and more important to ensure we adhere to a simple code of ethics.

Here are my five rules to follow when you are bouldering in the outdoors.

## 1. Respect

What is acceptable behaviour in one area may be considered unacceptable in another. Respect the local rules and everybody wins. This means that before you head out, be completely across the area you are about to

go boulder in. Take the time to read up on where to park, the walk in and any restrictions, seasonal closures or banned areas that may be in place. Make sure that you stick to established trails and don't "bush bash" with your boulder pad.

## 2. Brushing & Chalk

Brushing holds is an essential part of bouldering and it is important that soft (not wire) brushes are used to avoid any damage to the surface of the rock. Soft nylon or horsehair brushes are the best and least abrasive choices for this task, noting that on delicate rock types even these need to be used gently. It is also worth considering taking a brush on an extendable pole or a brush on the end of a tent pole to reach higher locations safely. Having an extendable pole brush allows you to brush off the excess chalk on the top of the boulder at the end of the day.

Sandstone and other sedimentary rock types tend to soak up moisture in damp or wet conditions. As a result, the rock can deteriorate quickly, losing its friction and eventually becoming polished. It's therefore important to ensure that boulders are dry



before starting your session. Wet conditions on softer rock types can also result in holds unexpectedly breaking.

Lastly try to minimise the use of chalk. Brush off as much as possible after your climbing session (especially tick marks) and take the time to remove chalk from other problems even if you didn't get on them that day.

### 3. Spotting & Moving Pads

When bouldering outside the ground can be uneven, hard and potentially dangerous. That said, you need to be careful not to just throw your bouldering pad roughly to the ground and drag it around unnecessarily. Take the time to plan out the landing and where spotters are required.

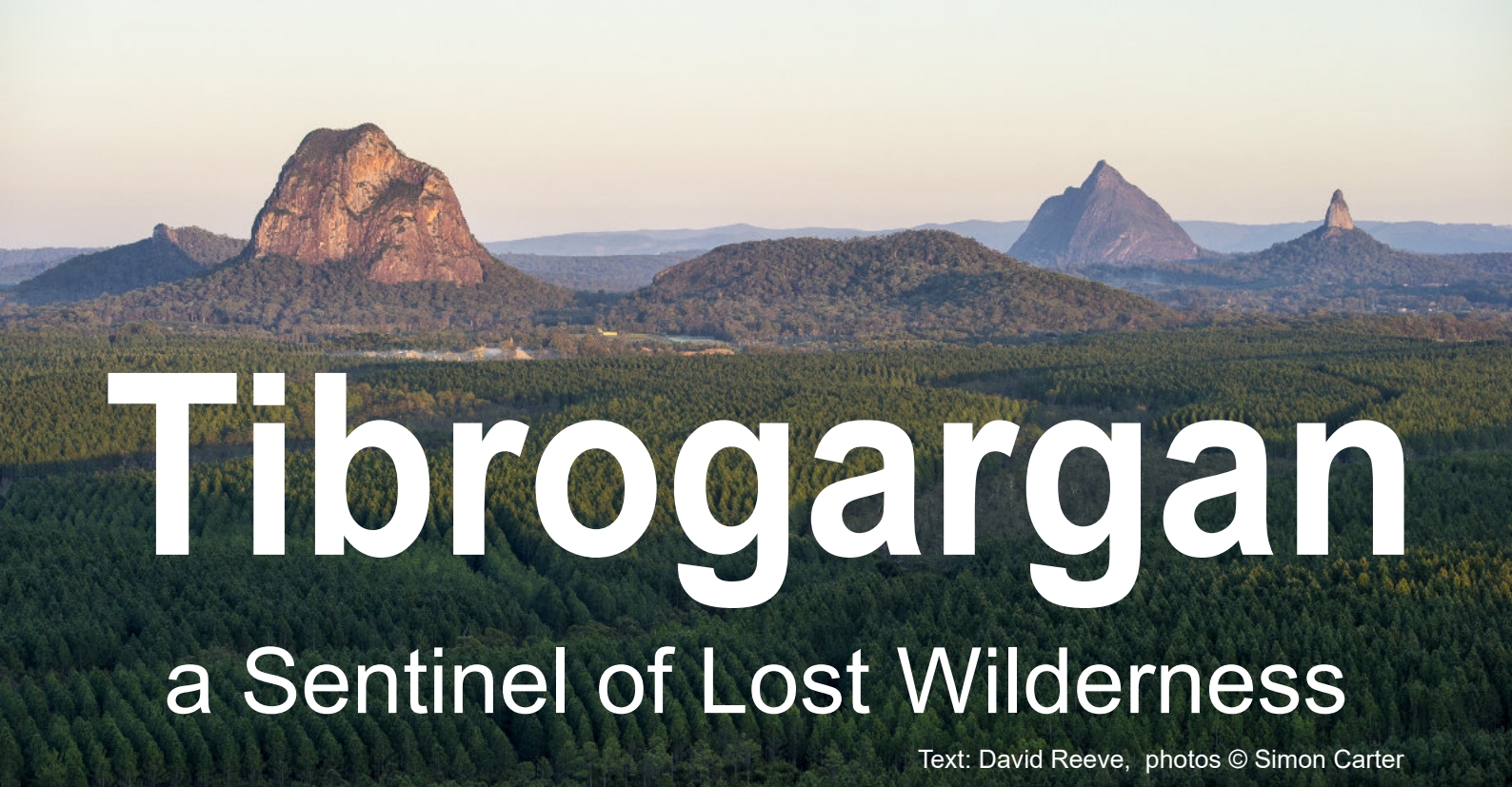
### 4. Clean Shoes, Dry Shoes

Anyone who has pulled onto a boulder problem with wet or dirty shoes will be able to testify that this does nothing for your technique or confidence in foot work. Having clean shoes is also important because pressing grit or dirt into the rock could cause rock damage as well as polishing which reduces friction. Keeping your shoes clean and dry is pretty easy if you come prepared. Taking an old towel or piece of carpet to wipe and dry your feet is the way forward.

### 5. Keeping a Low Profile

Meaning don't leave any litter or human waste behind and keep your voices down. Nobody likes loud obnoxious people, so loud power screams or expletive laden tirades on failed attempts is not the way to go. Just celebrate your successes and failures with hugs and high fives.

Remember, give back to the community by being a good example to others. Steward less experienced climbers to the ethics of bouldering outdoors. Use a positive tone to navigate others towards responsible decisions. 🌱



# Tibrogargan

## a Sentinel of Lost Wilderness

Text: David Reeve, photos © Simon Carter

On leaving Brisbane, should we choose to drive north, it isn't long before the hulking outlines of the two largest Glasshouse Mountains loom into view. Illuminated by Kabi Kabi legend we see old man Tibrogargan staring disconsolately out to sea, still offended by a transgression on the part of his son Coonowrin, while the matriarch of the group, Beerwah, obviously pregnant with a new mountain, stands somewhat further inland. Legend has it that, in the face of an incoming sea, Coonowrin was so concerned for himself that he failed to help his pregnant mother inland, and Tibrogargan, enraged by such self-indulgence took Coonowrin's head off with a mighty swing of his club. Today the family stand on the coastal plain a short distance from the sea.

Around their broad feet, the ant-like activity of the modern world is busy commodifying all that it touches. So we have packets of pine plantation here, and packets of houses there, packets of pineapples, packets of avocado and so on - everything in its packet ready for sale. And then, cut in close against the base of each mountain is a thin ring of native forest that marks the National Park boundary. Should you venture across that boundary you

are suddenly immersed in a different world. Mt Tibrogargan provides one of the few places where, minutes from suburbia, you can enter a wild environment, a place where, if you are just that bit too arrogant, just that bit lacking in respect for the old guy, your ego will be served-up on a platter. Future generations need this sort of wild space, a place where you check your hubris at the car park or suffer the ultimate consequences.

Yet for how much longer will such places remain wild? How much longer will it be before the current commodification of our parks is complete, and all is subsumed into neatly packaged adventure/eco products? It is critical that climbers recognize this possibility as being real, and that they see the incoming flood tide of progress, carrying with it the flotsam of winners and losers.

Climbers are not special. Climbers are just people doing the people-stuff that all people do. As we view this incoming tide, there will be those who consume the remaining experiences and move inland as if attending some Mad Hatter's Tea Party – new crags, new crags they will cry, whilst others will go with the ever-popular peacockery of the pretentious puritan, loudly declaring



everybody but themselves morally inferior, but, in effect, doing nothing to stem the tide. Most however will simply accept that we are all doomed in some minor way, as has ever been the case, and get on with doing what they have always done, bit by bit making the adjustments necessary to stay no more than ankle-deep in water.

But it needn't be like this. While working with the system of laws, minority groups like ours can't do much to stem that tide, but we can

attempt to redirect the flow of progress, ensuring that more discretion is applied to the inevitable cycle of "out with the old, and in with the new". Above all is the need to articulate the values we seek to protect, and critically, frame such values not as our needs and wants, but as our desires for the benefit of future others.

Probably the biggest distraction in the public discourse is the meme that climbers are all thrill seekers, and that those, having ventured upon the mighty mountain and through misadventure become newsworthy, should have chosen instead a commercial bungee jump, if scare themselves they must; rather this, than burden society with their immoderate ways. This false equivalence is the single most damaging shibboleth offered up by armchair voyeurs and the upper layers of bureaucracy ensconced in their city offices; a people to whom an encounter with the natural world may mean little more than dropping a pot plant on one's foot; a mere \$15 loss.

But, what can we do? The tide of modernity isn't about to pause.

**"Above all is the need to articulate the values we seek to protect, and critically, frame such values not as our needs and wants, but as our desires for the benefit of future others."**

Michael Hirning on pitch one of Celestial Wall, Mt Tibrogargan, Glasshouse Mountains. Qld.



There is nothing easy about bottling the quintessential spirit of outdoor climbing, so as to present it to a Parliamentary Committee. It is all too easy to appear the crank when attempting to defend an abstract value, particularly a perceived natural or cultural value. This is a “connection to land” thing because there can be no doubt that the loss of access to a crag is a net loss to the community that call that crag home. Such loss goes well beyond the simple calculus of “Can’t climb Tibro, so I guess I’ll need to spend an extra hour driving to Coolum”. It is not a loss that can easily be explained to a wider public whose culture attaches to the portable icons of the modern world rather than immovable features of landscape. In this critical sense, climbers should surely have a glimmering of the tragedy that befell the Kabi Kabi when they were packaged by

the bureaucracy of the time and moved from the environs of the mountains to the State Reserve now called Cherbourg. Cherbourg is but 100km away as the crow flies, and yet, for those whose culture was interwoven with the unique landscape of the mountains, the rupture was surely profound. Only a bureaucrat would attempt to commodify affairs of the heart in this way.

So the tide of modernity sweeps in, extracting value, and packaging for sale, all that is before it. Legislation empowers bureaucracies, and bureaucracies exist to tame the wild, to enforce order through destruction of the spirit. Yet, a smart society would recognize that there must be limits to this process if the public good is to be served. Such a smart society would check the excesses of its bureaucracy and reserve pockets of landscape where connection to land was not a government work product, but an equitable contract of the free mind.

Over a space of 60 years, I have watched the tide of progress sweep in to flood old Tibrogargan to his very feet. His dour expression has not flickered in all that time, and, to my eyes, Beerwah is no further forward in her pregnancy. Undoubtedly, we humans are in too much of a hurry. Let’s think carefully about that which we throw-out, and that which we keep. Just because something doesn’t fit the range of packages offered by our bureaucrats, it doesn’t follow it need be truncated or disposed of. 🍷

John J O'Brien, Squealer, Upper Slider Wall, Mt Tibrogargan. Glasshouse Mountains. Qld.

# STEWARDS / ADVOCATES / AFFILIATES



## RMIT affiliates with ACAV

The ACAV would like to welcome the RMIT Outdoor Club (ROC) as an affiliate member. ROC is one of the largest and most active university clubs in Melbourne. Since the late 1960s RMIT climbers have played a significant role in Victorian rock climbing and today the club has been extended to include not only rock climbing and mountaineering but a whole range of outdoor adventures. You don't have to be an RMIT student to join, nor do you need any prior experience. Contact them at [roc.org.au](http://roc.org.au).



## QUT Cliffhangers Rockclimbing Club

As a Foundation Member of ACAQ, the QUT Cliffhangers Rockclimbing Club (QCRC) has enjoyed over ten years working with the ACAQ as well as decades long support of stewardship and advocacy in the climbing community in QLD and further abroad. Their support for ACAQ has been invaluable. QCRC are one of the largest rock climbing clubs in QLD and continue to foster a strong culture of adventure, fun and teaching with climbing trips run all year around. Find out more: [new.qutcliffhangers.com](http://new.qutcliffhangers.com)

## Kangaroo Point Cleanup

The annual KP Cleanup event was held on the 2nd June this year at the Kangaroo Point Cliffs in the heart of Brisbane on a beautiful, sunny winters day. This year, with well over 50 participants, we removed an entire skip worth of rocks, rubbish and invasive Yucca plants and cactuses from the top of the cliffs. Many thanks must go to the local clubs (UQMC, QCRC, BRC), the sponsors (Pinnacle Sports, Riverlife), and the climbing community in general for this massive effort. The Brisbane City Council was very impressed with the stewardship of climbers. Keep an eye on the ACAQ facebook group for notice of the next one.



# WE NEED YOU



**Join for \$15 or Donate**

**Australian Climbing Association**

**[ACAQ](#) / [ACAV](#)**



Learning from Uncle Ron. On the last day of winter some of the ACAV committee and members went for a short walk at Arapiles. Great views, lots of laughter and lasting memories. Left to right: Mark Wood, Simon Carter, Mike Rockell (back to camera), Tori Dunn, Aaron Lowndes, Uncle Ron Marks (Wergaia Elder) and Kevin Lindorff.

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[ACAV Website](#)

### ACA NSW (ACANSW)

**President**

Vanessa Wills

ACANSW aim to be incorporated and accepting members by October.

### CONCESSION PARTNERS

The ACA have a growing number of gyms and businesses which provide generous discounts for ACA members. Please check on the relevant ACA branch websites for more details.

### CORPORATE PARTNERS

The ACAV are now actively seeking corporate partners. If you have a business and would like to support the future of climbing then please contact the secretary of the ACAV for a copy of our corporate partner booklet.

Cover Photo: Kate Hilton on Twentieth Century Fox, Mt Fox, an area in contention in the Victoria Range, Grampians National Park. Vic.