

S.C.U.M. REAR THEIR HEAD IN ALBANY

All materials and articles except intro by **Jim Nevin (SCUM)**, intro/re-typing/editing by Ross Weiter (CAWA)

Introduction

<the phone rings in my office>

Hello.

Hello ?

Hi, I'm Jim Nevin.

How can I help you ?

Oh,I'm just scum.

Ugh.....pardon, you are what ?

I'm from S.C.U.M.

<pause, me thinks.....> ah you are from the Southern Coast Union of Mountaineers ?

Yes.

I dimly remembered that, when I ascended into the dizzy heights of the CAWA Secretariat, I have inherited some old dusty files. The acronym SCUM did sound familiar. This guy was for real !!

Imagine living on a small island for many years, thinking that you are the only one there. Then one day, someone walks into your camp. It turns out that this guy knew about you all along ! Unfortunately, he also assumed that you knew about him and so nobody make contact.

SCUM arrived on my desk with vengeance, a letter with 10 pages of attachments on bolting, news, new routes and maps. All of these are republished for you, the discerning CAWA reader. Although Jim only asked me to print the article on bolting, the rest was just too good to go unpublished. We are printing the whole lot ! Sorry, Jim. Next time, be more careful what you send me !!

If I thought it appropriate to comment, my thoughts appear within Jim's articles in brackets and in *(italics)*. Some material was edited for clarity.

Cover Letter

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to expand a little bit on the article on bolting which you will find enclosed (next page). I would appreciate it if you could put it in the next issue of Western Climber.

The piece was written to ensure that all climbers are aware of the existing Adventure Climbing Zone (ACZ) at Albany. The meeting where the the ACZ concept and the CAWA Code of Bolting

Conduct were agreed to was in February 1993. It was ratified by CAWA within a few months and I think (but don't know) that your constitution was amended at that time. *(The CAWA Code of Ethics was re-published in the May 1997 issue of Western Climber, it stipulates that members are to " Carefully observe the rules applicable in managed areas". The Code of Bolting Conduct is at the end of this feature).*

M.A.S.C. was the Mountaineering Association of the South Coast and an incorporated body which has now lapsed. SCUM is a more casual arrangement more suited to the small numbers of local climbers. It is not incorporated but has been recognised by CALM when negotiating any local climbing issues.

Discussions about bolting between CAWA, MASC and CALM were amicable and agreement was quickly reached. Compromises had to be made by all parties, however the agreement has been respected by all climbers. My opinion is that the ACZ concept has circumvented some access problems by diverting fixed protection away from potential trouble spots. John Watson of CALM was a key player at that meeting, mainly acting as a facilitator and helping to keep things almost totally objective. All the recommendations reached were accepted by CALM.

The whole attitude of Albany locals was, and still is not so much anti-bolting, as pro-environment and pro-climbing. If any climbers disagree with this arrangement they have a way to amend it through discussion and consensus.

Yours faithfully

Jim Nevin

(the bolting article supplied by Jim is on the next page)

SCUM News

Greetings from "The Rainbow Coast" which has been living up to its name so much this spring, that the locals are looking forward to an "El Niño" so they can get back onto the rock.

Luckily, David MacNamara has returned to the fold and has been setting heaps of challenging routes on the Leisure Centre climbing wall. This has provided a focal

point for climbers with regular Thursday evening sessions well attended. The Centre has at long last purchased some gear, (no more holds unfortunately), and will have a similar belay setup to "The Hangout" in Bayswater.

Last summer and autumn were busy on the rock, with quite a few people working on their leading skills. West Cape Howe and Mermaid Point were the most popular venues.

Shane Richardson was in town early in the new year, researching climbs and collecting photos for a new guide to the South Coast. He has hopes of completing this mammoth task by early next year. A "passing parade" of climbers from the Porongurups Climbing Club era and onward assisted with photos and by checking route descriptions. The chance for glory was too tempting for some of the originals. The evergreen John Watson found a new line "Fifty-fifty", which he calmly led with Kevin Rogers. Not to be outdone, Shane climbed a new grade 26 in "The Throne of the Gods" area, then another one on the "Old Man of Torbay".

April saw the annual trip to Peak Charles with Patrick Carter and Jim Nevin enduring 11 days of classic Peak climbing. Steve Cooper and the others had to go after a week. The boys were suitably impressed by the Kalgoorlie climbers, who must hold some kind of record for the number of people and gear which can be crammed into one panel van. The routes they have been putting up were pretty impressive, too.

Around this time, six new routes were climbed in the Mermaid Point area, five by Patrick Carter and one by Jim Nevin. In "The Pale" they climbed the very Dublinesque "Bloomsday" and "Forty Foot Bend". Also in this area was "The Steppes", which entailed a crash course in off-width techniques to climb the top 3 meters. Two short overhanging routes were put up on the lower terraces and the grade 16 corner "Misty Morning" led on the "Summertime Wall".

A new grade 15 route was climbed on "Monkey Rock" near Denmark. It entails some delicate run out climbing on the *(cont'd)* south-west end of the crag. Some potential new routes were noted on the Western Slabs.

Well, that was about all, apart from the odd sortie to "The Blowholes" and "The Gap" between showers. Everyone is getting itchy climbing feet for some real rock so when Huey sends us a few sunbeams, we'll see you out there. Cheers for now and I hope that all have a great summer on the rock.

SCUM Climbing Calendar

Contact Jim Nevin on (08) 9844 4774 for more information on the following events. CAWA members are welcome, but do call first.

November 16 (Sun) West Cape Howe meet at carpark above Shelley Beach at 8:30

December 14 (Sun) Torndirrup NP assemble at 198 Bayview Drive, Little Grove, at 8:30 am

BOLTING ON THE SOUTH COAST

CURRENT SITUATION

During recent conversations with several climbers it became apparent that there is general lack of understanding of where it is allowed to place fixed protection on the South Coast.

Below is the substance of an agreement that was reached between CAWA, MASC (Albany climbers) and CALM regarding bolting in this region. This agreement was reached in February 1993 and accepted by all parties.



It was agreed that there would be an Adventure Climbing Zone (ACZ) from Shelter Island (Muttonbird Beach, 20 km west of Albany) to Mt. Willyung (near Albany airport), extending east to Cheynes Beach (45 km east of Albany), and south to the coast, including islands. **No fixed protection may be placed in an ACZ.**

Note that there also is an ACZ in the Stirling Range National Park at Bluff Knoll.

The above agreement was reached after extensive discussion and is still accepted as current by CALM and local climbers.

This system is flexible, changes of zoning are subject to an agreement between CAWA, SCUM and CALM.

There is no restriction on placing fixed protection outside ACZs, provided that it is carried out in accordance with CAWA's Code Of Conduct (next page).

HISTORY

The bolting debate was precipitated by a CALM Ranger complaining about three lines of bolts with hangers on the west face of Peak Head. Both CAWA and local climbers realised that, to avoid potential access problems, an understanding had to be established among themselves and with CALM.

John Watson, the manager of CALM on the South Coast, took a positive stance; he provided input on what would be acceptable to CALM and then allowed climbers to formulate a code of conduct.

A strong position taken by Albany climbers at the time was the main reason that the Albany ACZ was established. Their decision reflected environmental and ethical concerns, and acknowledged CALM's effort to manage environmentally sensitive areas.

Most of the climbable rock in the ACZ is within national parks which have extremely high conservation value. These parks are the homes of rare and endangered bird, plant and animal species such as the Noisy Scrub Bird, Gilbert's Potoroo and Chatham Island Fern. Two People's Bay and Waychinicup are very fragile areas and climbers have already experienced access problems due to concerns about disturbance to species which are being re-established.



The local climbing ethic tends towards the conservation of climbing areas in as pristine a state as possible. Also, there is a desire to preserve the traditional style of climbing in certain areas. Continuity of this trad style will provide challenges for future climbers in an unspoilt environment.

A continuing concern is the intrusive nature of bolt hangers and other conspicuous pieces of fixed protection on the aesthetics of exceptionally beautiful natural areas.

In the light of these concerns it was decided to preserve this area and to encourage climbers who wish to place bolts to do so outside of the ACZs and within the framework of the CAWA code of conduct. These climbers should be directed to the more discreet areas which have a higher emphasis placed on recreational activity (such as West Cape Howe).

THE RULES

If you want to keep climbing on the south coast, do not place bolts in Adventure Climbing Zones.

Zoning may be changed after discussion and agreement with CAWA, local climbers and CALM.

There are acres of unclimbed rock in places such as West Cape Howe and the Porongurups, where you can climb in the style of your choice. Naturally, you should always check with CALM regarding any temporary restrictions which may be in force in that area.

Finally and most importantly.....

Even if you are not a member of a climbing club, you will be regarded as a de-facto member of CAWA (or the local climbing group SCUM) by those in authority. If you do not observe the areas climbing ethics, the consequences of your actions will ultimately affect all climbers.

Jim Nevin

(The Bolting Code of Conduct, as developed in 1993, is on the next page. Also see the map of the Albany ACZ.)

**CAWA CODE OF BOLTING
CONDUCT FOR THE
SOUTHERN COASTAL
REAGION**

*Bolting is acceptable outside of
Adventure Climbing Zones if each
of these three conditions are met:*

*(1.) Bolts are required for SAFETY
reasons, ie. to protect against
ground or serious-injury falls.*

*(2.) The route adds significantly to
the area in grade, style or line.*

*(3) Only purpose made BOLTS,
tested and recommended for the
rock type and location are used. No
carrots, chains or pitons. No more
convenience bolting or backyard
gear.*