



Crag Stewards Victoria

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# For the love of climbing!

*Nam amor scandere*



**Photo Credit: Jae Zhong. Taken at the steps to the View Point at Buffalo, but you knew that didn't you?**

## Passion Project

**by Leeanne Lindorff, Secretary 14th February 2022**

Many people have asked why CSV and any number of climbing groups exist, and why the committee/board members do it. Just like any good love story it is because there is a part of us that wants to protect the things that we love, and in this case that is climbing. Climbing is a passion project for me due to my husband and sons commitment to it. I started climbing late although it could be said I was a bumblie long before that. I was a keen cross country runner and a lot of events would be held at the You Yangs, so after the races which were held early in the morning the day was left for us to entertain ourselves. With rocks nearby, we climbed and scrambled all over them. Looking back now I guess in many cases we were probably Free Solo Climbing, much to the horror of our parents when they came looking for us. Having traveled to climbing destinations I can now claim to have a slightly impressive CV (by my standards anyway). I learnt to belay at Ceuse and made my first top rope climb at Orpierre, Bouldered at Font, and so on. Climbing is limited these days with my MS, it is dependent on the day and quite often the season so I get to climb vicariously through others.

This issue is dedicated to all the lovers out there who climb, boulder and most especially advocate and volunteer your precious time to the cause. We would love to hear from all our volunteers their own love letter to climbing for future issues.

# Long distance love affair

by Martin Jackson, Chair, 14th February 2022

I had reached a point where climbing had faded into the background. I had two young children and a busy job and my few climbing partners had young children and busy jobs. Climbing just didn't happen very often.

It took a break-out year in Italy to get me fired up again. A year where I made life-long friendships in a completely foreign community basically via climbing.

Our idea was to rent out our house in Aus and use that set up in a quiet part of Italy where we could send the kids to school to learn Italian and we could walk, climb, ski and sample Italian life. We found a beautiful town in central Italy and did some hard bureaucratic yards to get things set up. There were almost no English visitors or speakers there and the Italians assumed you knew exactly how everything worked, because it had always been that way.

It was difficult making connections; we were such outsiders that the locals really didn't get what we were doing there. But, in the end, it was a climbing connection that got things started. As soon as we mentioned climbing, someone knew someone who was part of a local group. The message was passed on and the same afternoon we got a call to invite me to meet up with the group that night. Barely understanding what was going on because of my poor Italian, someone picked me up at 9 pm and took me to the school gym where they had 3-4 lead routes set up on the wall. There was a warm-up game of indoor soccer and then a crash course in using a gri-gri and Italian climbing terminology.

That night was followed by an invitation out to one of the local crags on the weekend, where we met partners and kids of the climbers and of course shared food, a few mouthfuls of wine and a single mouthful of coffee. The connection was instantaneous and lasting. Over the course of the year we not only climbed, walked and skied with this group, but celebrated birthdays and all the major festivals with them.

Returning to Australia, I knew the exact same thing wouldn't exist, but I was determined to make a better connection with the climbing community. Of course it wasn't hard. It just took a few steps out of my comfort zone and I found a connection that led to another and another. I guess that this sense of community exists in many other niche sports but, for me, it is a powerful reason for why I continue to love to climb.

**Ascoli Piceno 2004**

**Just in case you are interested:**

<https://www.thecrag.com/en/climbing/italy/area/517288596>

# Healing Heart

by Steven Wilson, Coordinator, 14th February 2022

Climbing can be many things, but to me it is my lifeforce, I would like to say that I can live without it, however I have found that this is not the case. It is not only the fact that I enjoy climbing, it has always lifted me out of my worst moments and reconnected me to reality. I have had many sessions over time of forcing myself out to the rock and pulling on, as I have always known that once I start to move over the rock the dark cloud that has been hovering will always lift.

There are so many things to love about climbing, where it takes you , the pain of failure (frequently) and the excitement of sending (seldom), spending time with like minded people and having the privilege of spending time in nature .

With almost 28 years under my belt climbing, I found myself constantly thinking about the routes that I would like to do and then being side tracked by other routes when I see them.

For me it is the desire to see what I can get out of my body and to push it to its limits, which I find both exhilarating and restorative.

I have had many great moments climbing and have made many friends along the way. Most importantly I even met my wife on a climbing trip, a definite highlight.

More recently seeing many areas banned has seen me redirect a lot of my energy into trying to help climbers see how we can improve on how we engage with the environment and hopefully create a sympathetic shared passion in the surroundings of where we climb.

## **Forbidden Love - A farewell to Steps Ahead (Please be advised that this climb is in an SPA and at this stage is off limits to climbing. Please respect)**

Taken from a short Facebook post that I made in 2018, at the time we had no idea that this would be the last ascent of this climb, hopefully this will not be forever.



After 14 years it is time to part. The first time I saw you, you seemed impossible. Then came the time I started the process of unlocking your secrets, you were way out of my league back then, but the impossible had become possible. For the next several years I threw myself at you, only to be repelled time after time. I neglected you for 9 years with only the briefest interludes. It is now time to part, but it is not sad, it is with great joy that I have finally found myself at your summit.

*Photo credit: Mark Woods.*

# Thorn in our side

Whilst well aware of the weed problem that exists at a number of crags we must remind our stewards and volunteers that without permission from the relevant land managers we are unable to at this time conduct working bee's or act under the volunteer banner to pull or dig out weeds.

An example of this is that one of the first projects we approached to do with Parks Victoria was to do with removal of thistles at Dyurrite. This project has been in negotiations with them since 2020, so for those who volunteer with us we ask for your continued patience regarding this matter.

Whilst the below post on a local community Facebook post has some great information we do have to respect the process of seeking permission from the relevant Land Management groups which include Parks Victoria and BGLC. We would advocate for the below advice to be used for personal use around the home only.

*"Hello, with the weather we've been having over the last couple of days being wet and humid; the conditions are right for Caltrop (Tribulus terrestris) (aka Three Cornered Jack, Bindii, Cats head, Goats head, Yellow vine) to germinate. There have been a few areas at the mount where this weed has established, so please keep an eye out for it. You will know it if you stand on one of it's thorns in bare feet, but it might also embed its self in your bouldering mat or shoes/pack etc, and spread that way. Caltrop has numerous green to reddish brown stems radiating from a crown. It grows prostrate to 2m long with many branches and fine hairs. It becomes obvious when it's about the size of a 50 cent piece, but can grow to be quite large. When they are large, the thorns dry out and fall on the ground, so its best to get them while they're young.*

*I forgot to mention, it has a tap root, so if you are picking one, take it gently and wiggle it a bit first so the tap root comes out. It can regrow from the root otherwise."*



**Good thorn**



**Bad thorn**

The Thorny Devil whilst technically not found in Victoria and therefore not at Dyurrite it is rather cute and probably the only chance to feature in this newsletter.

**Last chance to get your T-shirt**

Available in limited size, clours and numbers. (funds go to CSV)  
Contact: Goshen  
goshenw@gmail.com

# To the beating heart of CSV

Again, a big thank you for signing up! We would greatly appreciate and  it if you would if you have not already signed up with Park Connect then we ask that you please do so.

Please visit the Park Connect website

Parks Victoria are now requesting that all volunteers register with Park Connect (Ctrl + Click to follow link)

<https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/get-into-nature/volunteering>

Register at ParkConnect

We also ask that you obtain a Working with Children check by visiting the following website:

Thank you,

1. To apply online please, (Ctrl + Click to follow link) or visit:

<https://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

2. Please ensure you select the 'Volunteer' option.

3. Use the Parks Victoria address and phone number below:

**Parks Victoria**  
**Level 10, 535 Bourke Street**  
**Melbourne VIC 3000**  
**131 963**

## From your Board

Many people will drift into and out of climbing as life gets in the way but for some of us we become all too consumed by it. Just ask our partners, who support us by picking up the slack whilst we attend numerous meetings, correspond with land managers and other like minded organisations. That is why when someone puts their hand up to help we jump at the chance to recruit them, however having that same person take the next step and actually follow through with the offer is a moment of joy and celebration amongst the board.

Maybe, just maybe we might be able to attend a dinner and remain engaged with our friends and families and forget that urgent email that needs answering or that report needing to be written, oh and this newsletter put together.

For those who volunteer and follow through with their time. We salute you.

*Martin, Steven, Goshen Steve and Leeanne*

# Wishing our stewards and volunteers a happy Valentine's Day



Size of names etc are purely random.