

Island Bushwhacker

Volume 47 | Issue 2 | Summer 2019



On the Colonel

Photo: Roxanne Stedman

ACC VANCOUVER ISLAND SECTION

Social Events

The club has a monthly slide-show presentation at the Swan Lake Nature House, 3873 Swan Lake Road, Victoria, BC on the second Thursday of each month, except in July and August. The doors open at 7:00pm, and the show starts at 7:30pm.

Web Information

Web site: accvi.ca

Webmaster: webmaster@accvi.ca

Executive Meeting Minutes

Available on our meeting archives.

National ACC Office

For new memberships and renewals, changes of address or other details, and booking huts, contact the ACC National office directly.

www.alpineclubofcanada.ca

info@alpineclubofcanada.ca

403 678 3200, or P.O. Box 8040

Canmore, AB, T1W 2T8

Annual Membership Dues

Single \$53 Family \$75

Youth (19 and under) \$38

The Island Bushwhacker Newsletter

A monthly (except July and August) publication of the Vancouver Island Section.

Newsletter Editor: Mary Sanseverino, 250 592 4677,

newsletter@accvi.ca

We encourage submissions of items of interest to our membership, including news items, announcements, and short articles, along with photos. Email your submission by the 25th day of the previous month.

Advertising shall be accepted at the discretion of the editor. All advertising shall be for products or services of direct interest to our membership.

Our Motto

1. COME BACK ALIVE
2. COME BACK FRIENDS
3. RESPECT THE LAND
4. HAVE FUN
5. GET TO THE TOP
(IN THAT ORDER!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Slideshow, Thur, June 13. [Mountain Mishaps](#). Join Janelle Curtis, Valerie Wootton and Lindsay Elms for an indepth look at two mountaineering accidents on Vancouver Island. Everyone is invited to this informative night of discussion aimed at helping us all be safer in the mountains.

Contents

- 3 Upcoming Slideshows and Events
- 4 Upcoming Trips
- 5 Mountain Education
- 6 Executive Episodes: Catrin Brown
- 9 Respect the Mountains Day
- 10 Glass House Mts: Lindsay Elms
- 13 First Nations Youth: Geoff Bennett
- 14 BC Wolverine Study: Geoff Bennett
- 14 National: Christine Fordham
- 15 Ski Mountaineering: Natasha Salway
- 18 5040 Views: Brett Classen
- 20 Conuma Peak Arch: Chris Jensen
- 24 Surprise!! Natasha Salway
- 28 Bushwalking: Liz Williams & Graham Maddocks
- 31 e-Trails
- 32 Executive Listing
- 33 From Front Cover: Roxanne Stedman
- 31 Contributors

Reminder to Members:

Keep your [membership](#) up-to-date, so to as to be covered by the ACC's liability insurance. Keep your [contact information](#) current on ACC National's site, as it's from this master list that we download our email addresses for mailouts.

Join the ACC-VI's [Facebook group](#).

You don't have to be a Facebook member to see this page.



Upcoming Slideshows, Presentations, Meetings and Get-togethers

Slideshow, Thursday, June 13. [Mountain Mishaps: Janelle Curtis, Lindsay Elms & Valerie Wootton](#)

This joint slide show by Janelle Curtis, Valerie Wootton and Lindsay Elms focuses on two recent accidents in the mountains on Vancouver Island. During the slide show they will explain the circumstances leading to the accidents they were involved in, the injuries sustained, the use of their emergency satellite beacons (SPOT and inReach), and the valiant efforts of the search and rescue teams that helped during those fateful days.

Please invite friends and family for an informative night geared to help inform our trips, hopefully allowing us to be better prepared and safer in the mountain environment we all love so much!

Goodies and tea available by donation.

Victoria Slideshows are at Swan Lake Nature House. Doors open at 7:00 pm, the show starts at 7:30 pm. Goodies and tea available by donation. Location: Swan Lake Nature House at 3873 Swan Lake Road. New members, friends and family are always most welcome! We look forward to seeing you there.!

June 15, 2019: [Respect the Mountains Day](#)

June 15/ 2019 is an Alpine Club of Canada / National UIAA Day with our 24 sections across Canada participating. Come on up to Mount Washington Alpine Resort on June 15 between 11-4 and help clean up our mountain environment and hear some expert talks each hour on VI Marmot Recovery; Mountain Birds and Wildlife; Plastic Pollution – Alpine to Ocean; Ways to “Leave No Trace” and more.

Full info on pg 9 in this edition of the Bushwhacker.



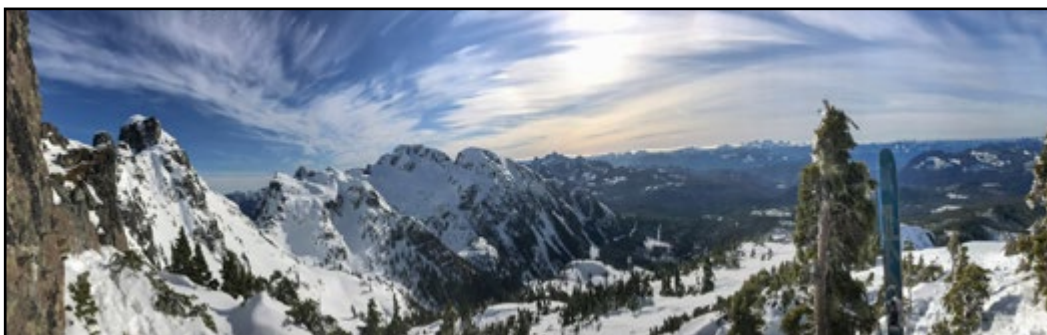
Upcoming Trips

Full information for all trips is located online at [ACC-VI Trip Schedule](#). Each trip listed here links to the [Trip Schedule](#). Click trip titles for links to full info.

Check the [Trip Schedule](#) often for new offerings!

Schedule

Date	Event
May 31, 2019 to Jun 02, 2019	Intro to Rock Climbing Course and Workshop - Weekend at the Crag
May 31, 2019 to Jun 03, 2019	Mt. Rainier via Disappointment Cleaver (Full/Wait Listing)
Jun 13, 2019	Slideshow - Mountain Mishaps: Janelle Curtis, Lindsay Elms & Valerie Wootton
Jun 14, 2019 to Jun 16, 2019	*FULL* Steep Snow: Intro to Mountaineering - Alpine Weekend
Jun 15, 2019	RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS DAY
Jun 28, 2019 to Jul 01, 2019	ACC Youth Mt.Mariner outing. (C3)
Jul 06, 2019 to Jul 08, 2019	Mt.Myra-Mt.Thelwood-Moyeha Mt.
Jul 20, 2019 to Aug 01, 2019	Baffin Island Adventure (D2)
Jul 26, 2019 to Jul 28, 2019	Mount Baker Easton Glacier route
Aug 03, 2019 to Aug 05, 2019	Quadra Island Rock Climbing (A5)
Aug 18, 2019 to Aug 25, 2019	5040 Peak hut summer camp
Aug 23, 2019 to Aug 25, 2019	Forbidden Plateau Traverse (B2)
Aug 31, 2019 to Sep 02, 2019	Crest Creek Crag - Rock Climbing (A5)
Sep 06, 2019 to Sep 09, 2019	Wild Women 3Ms: Mt McBride, Marble Peak, Morrison Spire (C2)
Jun 15, 2019 to Jun 16, 2019	RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS DAY
Jul 06, 2019 to Jul 08, 2019	Mt.Myra-Mt.Thelwood-Moyeha Mt.
Aug 03, 2019 to Aug 05, 2019	Quadra Island Rock Climbing (A5)
Aug 31, 2019 to Sep 02, 2019	Crest Creek Crag - Rock Climbing (A5)



*Mt. Cain pano
Photo: Skafti Sinclair (from
the [2018 photo competition](#))*

Mountain Education

ACC-VI offers a wide variety of courses aimed at giving our members the technical and safety skills to get out there in the mountains. Courses are open to ACC members in good standing only. You are welcome to join the section if you would like to enroll in one or more of these courses.

*Education and Courses: <http://accvi.ca/programs/education/>
Is there something you would like to see? Contact education@accvi.ca*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Education Even</i>
June 8, 2019 June 14 - 16, 2019	<p><u>*FULL* Steep Snow: Intro to Mountaineering - Alpine Week-end</u> Contact accvi.education@gmail.com for waitlist possibilities.</p> <p>This ACC-led workshop is intended to introduce beginners to elements of non-glaciated mountaineering. Trip participants will practice the basic skills needed to climb and descend the occasional pitch of steep spring/summer snow, and to practice rappelling in mountain terrain.</p> <p>Workshop philosophy: Chill. The goal is to practice skills in a beautiful setting vs. crushing routes. We'll take our time, and split up into rope teams based on comfort and skill level.</p> <p>This workshop will consist of two separate trips: Crag & Classroom session – Saturday June 8th; Weekend in the Mountains – Friday 14 June – Sunday 16 June.</p>



Click to discover more [Alpine Club of Canada Guided Adventures and Education Opportunities](#) (Photo: Mary Sanseverino, GMC 2017 - Justice Glacier, Selkirk Mtns.)

Executive Episodes:

A quick update of ACC life from the chair's chair.

What's not to love about this time of year? Snow still on the mountains, flowers in the hills and tons of daylight to enjoy it all. Welcome to summer everyone!

Policies, processes and affiliations

Sorry for the dry header, but I want to share some recent updates from the executive on changes to a few policies and practices, some of which have been communicated by email. Other changes are very recent, so -at the risk of a bit of repetition - here is the full list of changes.

- **FMCBC membership**

You will know from the AGM and the spring newsletter that for several months we have been reviewing our continuing membership in the *Federation of Mountain Clubs of British Columbia (FMCBC)*. We are grateful to those who gave input and feedback into this decision, all of which was shared with the executive. Last week, all 21 members of the executive voted on a motion to terminate our FMCBC membership effective 31 May 2019. The motion passed.

This means that ACC-VI will no longer be a member club of the FMCBC, and we will not be paying them a fixed portion of each individual's membership fees. Instead, we plan to maintain our support for the advocacy work of the FMCBC through an annual donation, to be determined alongside our other donations towards the end of the year. In addition, we want to increase our financial support for organisations that are effective in advocating for our specific environmental and access issues on the Island. Please consider and share with us ideas for groups and organisations we may choose to support in this way.

If you wish to take out an individual membership in the FMCBC, it is perfectly easy to do so:

<https://mountainclubs.org/get-involved/become-a-member/>

I realise that this decision is a departure from our long-term membership of 'the Fed'. If anyone wishes to know more about the process leading to the decision, I'd be more than happy to share with you the communications exchanged and information gathered during the last few months – please just ask.

- **Subsidies for education course for trip leaders**

For many years we have had a policy of offering subsidies of up to 75% of the cost of a mountaineering-related course (up to \$300 per person per year), for members who lead section trips. From 1 July 2019, the subsidy will be available to applicants who lead two section trips or significant events within one year of the course. For participants in the North Face Leadership course, the requirement will now be leading three trips within one year.

If you have already planned to take a course and are unable to meet this new requirement for trip leadership, please contact education@accvi.ca, and we will honour the previous arrangement during this time of change.

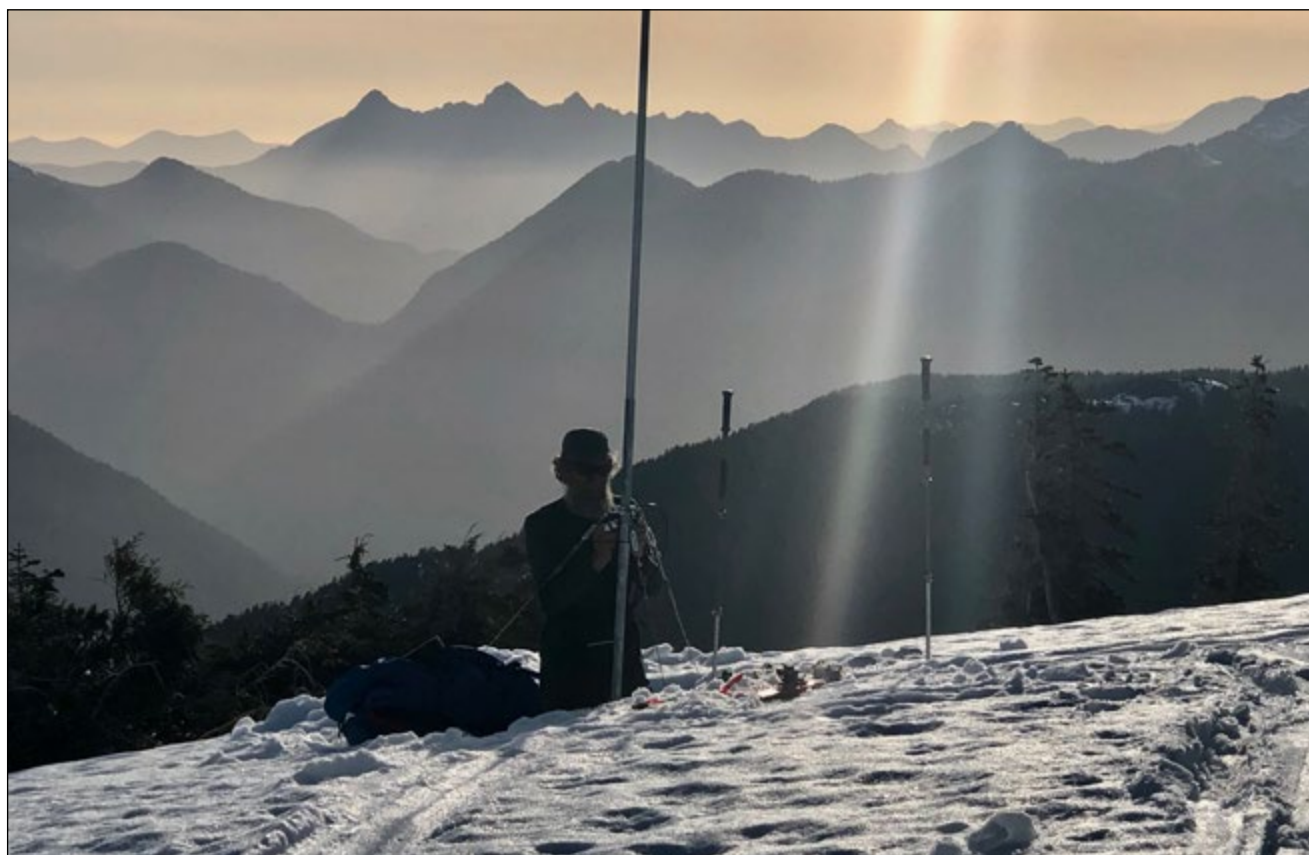
- **Island Bushwhacker Annual (IBA)**

Our IBA editor, Rob Macdonald, is working hard on the 2018 edition. He reports that it will be a large edition with many fine articles and photographs. All members can look forward to receiving their printed copy towards the end of the summer. As the Annual is one of our most loved resources as well as one of

our greater costs, discussions are ongoing about its future with respect to member choice of hard copy vs online versions. Please share your thoughts and views on this with me at any time. I'm told we are the only ACC section that creates this beautiful product, a matter of some pride, so do rest assured there is no plan to discontinue availability of the printed version.

- **New faces on sub-committees**

A warm welcome to Gary Croome who has joined the hut committee as the Access Manager, bringing a wealth of experience from his involvement in the hut construction phase. And earlier in the spring, we were delighted to welcome Laura Darling and Peter Morgan to the summer camp committee. We know that you have already been busy getting all the ducks in a row for this year's camp at Meditation Mountain. Many thanks to all three of you for stepping up for these roles.



Hut committee member Martin Hofmann works on the weather station above the 5040 Peak hut, May 2019. Photo by Catrin Brown.

Our leaders at national summer camps

ACC-VI will again be well represented at the various summer camp events hosted by the main club. We are happy that both Iain Sou and Peter Gilbert have been accepted to attend the North Face Leadership course during the General Mountaineering Camp (GMC). And, as previously announced, Natasha Salway has been awarded the Karl Nagy scholarship, which means she will be working as an amateur guide alongside ACMG guides during GMC week 6. Happy training to all of you, we look forward to the skills you continue to share as section leaders.

Access and environment issues

Thanks to Barb Baker who continues to keep us well informed of access restrictions including gate closures. As we head into the wildfire season, which has started worryingly early this year, I recommend everyone checks the blogs and updates before heading out. Barb and I met with senior personnel of the newly established company, Mosaic Forest Management, in Nanaimo in April. Although this new merger of forest companies seems to have put the clock back somewhat on our hopes for the license agreement that we had been negotiating with Island Timberlands, we are pushing for engagement in our demand for permanent corridors to public spaces, a vision shared with other mountaineering clubs on the Island.

South-Islanders have likely heard of the controversy regarding the threat of a sale of 109 hectares of old-growth forest near Port Renfrew. For now, I'm happy to say the protests seem to have been heard, and there has been a stay of execution, if not a reprieve. There is a good summary of the issue [here](#). Our sincere thanks to all who contributed to this response.

Some of our members are engaged in a recent land-use issue where access to the back-country across DND property in Nanaimo is now denied. We have given our support to a group that has formed, working to find ways to keep this land accessible in some form for recreational use, working with newly elected MP Paul Manly.

Congratulations!

I'm delighted to share the news that two of our members, Chris Jensen and Chris Ruttan, have been recognised by the national club in their receipt of the '[Distinguished Service Award](#)'. The awards are in acknowledgement of their outstanding work in all stages of the vision, planning and construction of the 5040 Peak hut.

You can read more about this award [here](#), and will see that in a sense these awards have been fast-tracked for Chris and Chris. As the Executive Director of the ACC, who was present at the celebration of the opening of the hut in October 2018, commented to me "these guys put in hundreds of hours in a very short period and well more than most would have in the requisite 5 year period." Indeed. Although no one truly knows the time and effort involved, we do know that the outcome is a beautiful facility, already widely enjoyed.

We are hoping to celebrate Chris and Chris' awards at the section barbecue in August, see below.

Tying the knot

That they did! Our warmest congratulations to Natasha Salway and Colin Mann for crowning their relationship with a wedding ceremony on the summit of Kings Peak during a club trip on Saturday 25 May. This is also a great opportunity to thank you both for the incredible contributions you make to our community through education and leadership, and especially for encouraging countless people to get out there on your trips. We wish you every happiness as you continue your life journeys together.

Dates ahead

Our section's contribution to the national event "*Respect the Mountains*" will be held on 15 June 2019 at Mt Washington. See page 9 for details.

Our ever popular late summer barbecue will again be held at the home of Mike Hubbard and Colleen Kasting in Saanichton on Thursday 29 August 2019. Details will be sent by email to the membership nearer the time.

And for those who like to plan ahead, we have booked the Vancouver Island Mountain Centre at Mt Washington for 7 – 9 February 2020, for our AGM weekend. Details will be distributed much later in the year.

Executive events

The ACC-VI executive last met on 30 April 2019, and will meet again on 12 June. Please send me any items you would like to add to the agenda. Minutes of all meetings are posted on the website.

**Happy trails
Catrin Brown**

Catrin@shaw.ca | chair@accvi.ca



Help Wanted - RESPECT THE MOUNTAINS DAY - June 15/ 2019 - 11-4

“Respect The Mountains Day” is a Canada wide event with the Alpine Club of Canada, the International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA), and ACC's 25 sections across Canada participating. The event is sponsored by MEC and UIAA.

ACC-VI will have an educational display up at Mt. Washington, with experts to talk each hour on VI Marmot Recovery; Mountain Birds and Wildlife; Plastic Pollution – Alpine to Ocean; Ways to “Leave No Trace”, and “pollution pickers” to help stop litter and plastics going from the alpine down to the ocean.

We need:

- Members passionate about alpine environments to talk to the public, and help out at our display;
- “Pollution pickers” to help cleanup. Prizes for “pollution pickers” donated by MEC. Mt. Washington has kindly offered some food and a scenic chairlift ride after the clean-up for all participants;
- Any more experts to give short talks?

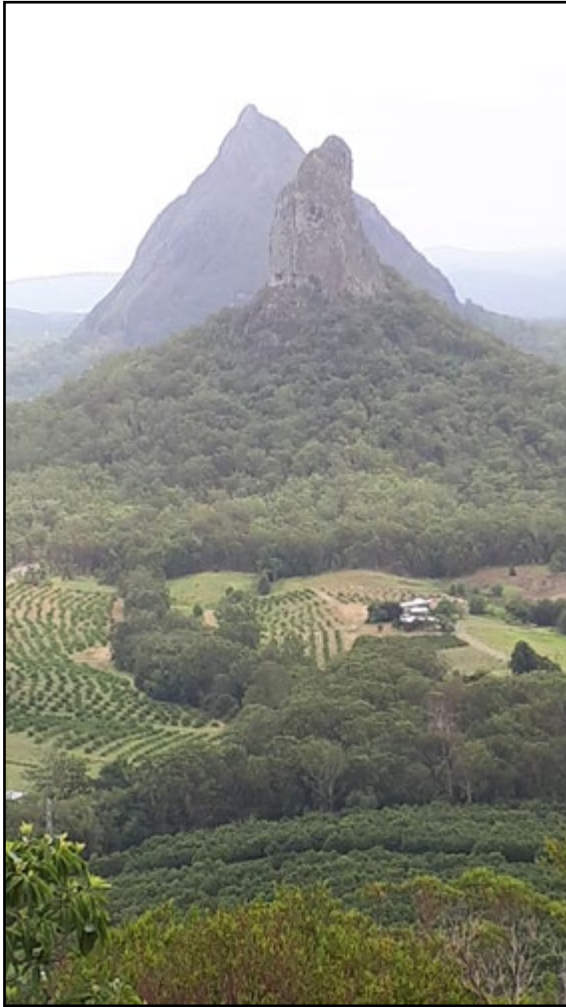
Looking for up to 25 ACC-VI members to assist. All help appreciated.

Please contact **Christine Fordham** natrep@accvi.ca.

The Glass House Mountains

February, 2019

By Lindsay Elms



Mount Beerwah (background) and Mount Coonowrin from the summit of Mount Ngungun.

Seventy kilometres north of Brisbane on the southeast coast of Queensland are the iconic Glass House Mountains: a group of eleven trachyte plugs that rise dramatically from the surrounding landscape. They are remnants of volcanic activity that occurred 26 - 27 million years ago.

The eleven Glass House Mountains are: Mount Beerwah (556m), Mount Coonowrin or Crookneck (377m), Mount Tibrogargan (364m), Mount Tunbubudla or the Twins (312m and 293m), Mount Beerburum (278m), Mount Ngungun (253m), Mount Coochin (235m), Mount Tibberoowuccum (220m), Mount Miketeebumulgrai (199m), Mount Elimbah or The Saddleback (129m) and Wild Horse Mountain (123m).

The Glass House Mountains and surrounding plains are the ancestral home of the Jinibara people and Kabi Kabi people. According to Jinibara peoples' lore and custom, Beerwah is the ancestral pregnant mother and Tibrogargan is the father with his faithful dingo, Ngungun. Around the parents are their children – Coonowrin the eldest, Beerburum, Coochin, Elimbah, Tibberoowuccum, Miketeebumulgrai, Tunbubudla the twins and the youngest know today as Wild Horse.

With a violent storm approaching Tibrogargan, the father, commanded his eldest son Coonowrin to help his pregnant mother Beerwah and siblings move to safety. Being scared of the storm Coonowrin instead fled. Infuriated by his son's cowardliness, Tibrogargan pursued him and struck him with his nulla nulla (a hardwood club) on the back of his head resulting in Coonowrin's crooked neck. Once the danger passed

Coonowrin felt tremendous guilt for his actions and asked his father, brothers and sisters for forgiveness but they all wept with shame. This is said to explain the many small streams that flow through the area. Tibrogargan turned his back on Coonowrin and gazed out to sea refusing to look at his son who continues to hang his head in shame.

To the Jinibara people there is nothing more important than a mother giving birth and the people are taught to respect and protect Mount Beerwah, a deeply spiritual place. Their lore and custom teach them not to climb this mountain out of respect for its great sacredness.

The first European to see these mountains was Captain James Cook in 1770 when he was sailing down the coast of Australia. He gave them the name Glass House Mountains as the peaks reminded him of the glass furnaces in his home county of Yorkshire in England. All the mountains were first climbed in the 1800's but the most challenging peak is Mount Coonowrin. Climbing has been banned on Mount Coonowrin since 1999 as the terrain was deemed too dangerous, however, one interesting early ascent of Mount Coonowrin happened on Empire Day, 1912, when a party of three sisters (Jenny, Sara and Etty Clark) made the first female ascent with their male companions. They began their



Beerwah and Coonowrin - 1935.

attempt at dawn by cycling from Brisbane, climbed a new route today know as Clark's Gully, and then cycled back the 70 kilometres to Brisbane arriving at 10 p.m.—what might be called a 'green' ascent.

Today most of the mountains have trails to their summits with the most popular be-

ing Mount Ngungun. Mount Ngungun is the sixth tallest of the Glass House Mountains and has a well-maintained hiking trail to the summit that affords great views. The trail from the carpark is not as steep as the higher mountains and is recommended for beginners so we undertook the hike to get our first glimpse around the countryside. The third highest mountain, Mount Tibrogargan, has a trail that circumnavigates the mountain but there is a steep climber's route to the summit. Early afternoon we decided to climb the peak (we'd just challenged ourselves on Mount Ngungun) and for Val to take the next step on her path back into the mountains after her accident.



Mount Coonowrin - 1894.



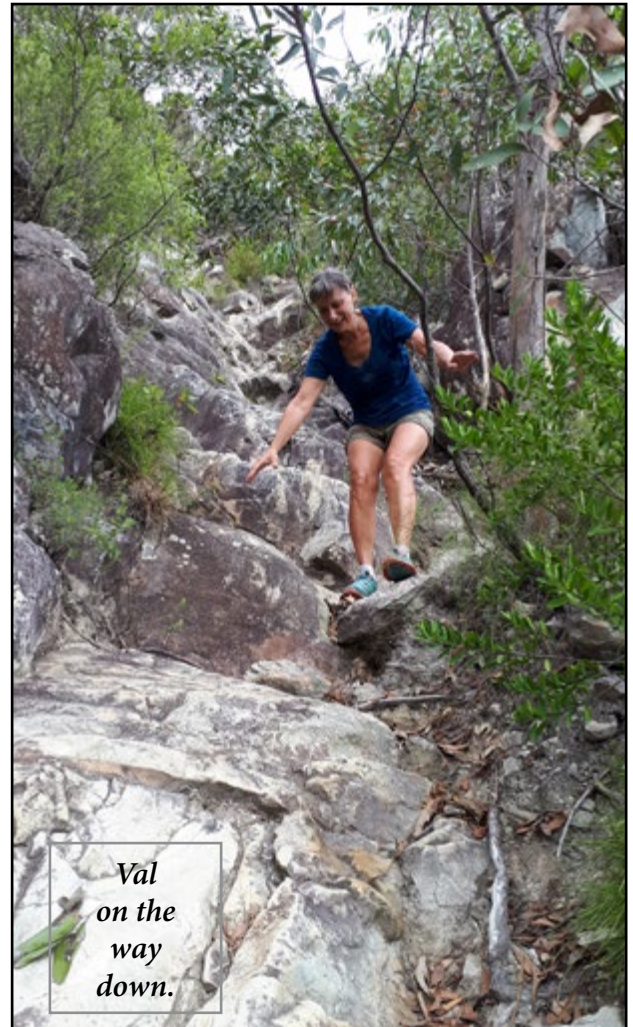
Mount Tibrogargan with the obvious trail to the summit.

Having recently hiked a few trails in some of Queensland's National Parks, and before heading off to the Great Barrier Reef for some snorkeling, I thought she was ready to attempt a rock route albeit a 4th/ low 5th class route. After hiking in 800 metres from the carpark we found the sign pointing towards the climbing route. It said the route was for experienced climbers only and was subject to rockfall and was slippery after rain. Although we had experienced a few scuds (local slang for sun-showers) in the morning, we had not received any moisture in the last four hours. The rock looked warm and dry.

We scrambled up the trail to the bottom of the first pitch – a twenty metre section of 5.4 rock with lots of good hand and foot holds. The route then followed what looked like a water course, which in places is, but in many places the topsoil has just been eroded off by climbers. In several places on either side of the route were signs indicating to stay away from the steep drop-offs. We continued scrambling up the 4th class rock with a few low 5th moves. Occasionally Val felt like her leg was giving out but she made sure she had good points of contact and after about forty-five minutes we scrambled onto the summit. It was too bad that it was a little hazy as the view was stunning.

As with any climb, it is the descent where one needs to be especially cautious. Again, making sure she had good points of contact she slowly scrambled down the route taking joy in being back in touch with the rock and on another mountain, albeit not a very tall one. On the final twenty metre section I found an alternate descent route (still 5th class) but on nice warm rock. Two and a half hours after starting we were back at the car ready to drive into Brisbane. Although there are no big mountains like what we are used too on Vancouver Island, it was fun scrambling around on the picturesque Glass House Mountains.

Mount Beerwah (left) and Mount Coonowrin (right) from the summit of Mount Tibrogargan.



Val on the way down.

ACC-VI and First Nations in the Ucluelet Area

Geoff Bennett - coordinator, First Nations Liaison Subcommittee

Back in 2016, Carlos Mack of the Toquaht First Nation successfully applied for a Youth Grant from the ACC-VI Memorial Fund to purchase climbing gear for FN youth. This eventually led, in September 2018, to a rainy day of rappelling for several youth under the supervision of Brianna Coates, Alois Schonberger and Krista Gooderham. By this time, Ricardo Manmohan had taken over from Carlos and had started a “Warrior Youth” program. He was keen on fostering further cooperation between ACC-VI and FN communities in the Ucluelet area. Ricardo earned a PhD from Royal Roads in Indigenous Leadership and is a Major in the Army Reserve, giving him lots of training and experience working with young people.

At the same time, Chris Jensen, Chris Ruttan and their team of over two hundred volunteers were building a hut on the side of 5040 Peak. The location straddles the territories of six First Nations. Their cooperation was critical to the success of the construction and indeed they donated the three splendid posts of yellow cedar that grace the front of the hut.

In order to nurture this spirit of cooperation, the ACC-VI executive decided to set up a First Nations Liaison subcommittee earlier this year. One of its first acts was to coordinate an island-wide collection of used climbing gear, which was delivered to the Warrior Youth in April.

This delivery coincided with the first of two reconnaissance expeditions to Effingham Inlet to search for suitable cliffs for rock climbing and rappelling. Participants included Brianna, Rob Ramsay, Iain and Derek Sou. Ricardo’s Warrior Youth had selected this boat-accessible location as a venue for their First Annual Warrior Games to be held on the May holiday weekend. Unfortunately, a third recce was required to confirm a good climbing rock, so the Games had to proceed without the participation of ACC-VI. Maybe next year!

In the meantime, the youth have been tasked with recommending an indigenous name for the 5040 hut. It will be a significant challenge to get the “buy-in” of the various FN communities in the area. Initial indications are that the name “Gathering Place” has support but in which language? To be continued.

The hut has been booked on Oct 4-6 for a combined ACC-VI-Warrior Youth weekend. The objective is to introduce the two youth groups to each other and to do some mountaineering together. With luck, there may even be a hut-naming ceremony.

Members of the First Nations Liaison Subcommittee

- Vanessa Barr
- Geoff Bennett (coordinator)
- Brianna Coates
- Barry Hansen
- Colin Mann
- Zoe Minnaard
- Rob Ramsay
- Mary Sanseverino
- Derek Sou
- Iain Sou
- Karun Thanjavur
- Jesse Whitehead

Click the map for an overview of Indigenous territories.

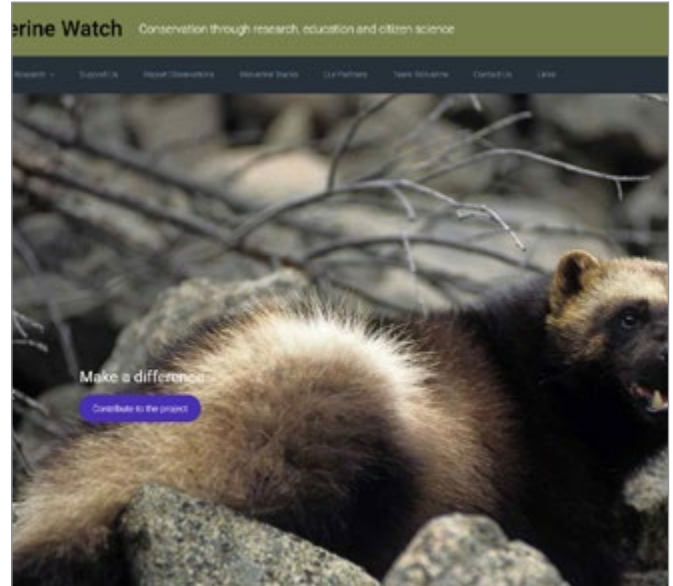


Although for now we tend just to react to the requests of First Nations in the area, members are encouraged to come up with proactive ideas for future joint events.

BC Wolverine Study

Geoff Bennett

A recent article in [CBC News](#) has alerted us to a current research program in BC called <http://www.wolverinewatch.org/>. If you have seen a wolverine in BC, or its tracks or a den, you can submit your observations online. Wolverines are not “officially” present on Vancouver Island although there have been several possible sightings over the years. Geoff Bennett and Tony Vaughan are fairly convinced they saw fresh wolverine tracks high on the Comox Glacier in 2002. Janelle Curtis is also reasonably certain that she saw wolverine prints in the sand near Cape Scott in 2009. ACC-VI members are more likely than most people to encounter wolverines in their natural habitat. Look for prints about the size of your fist, with five toes on each foot, claws visible and a peculiar loping gait as described in the CBC article. A marten is much smaller. [There is an ID card on the wolverine website](#). Take photos with something for scale.



Editors Note: Those of you headed out to the ACC-VI Summer Camp at Meditation Mountain do keep an eye out for these illusive creatures. You'll be in the type of territory they like and this area is one of special interest to researchers.

News from our ACC National Headquarters

Christine Fordham

ACC now has 25 sections with Squamish being our latest addition. That makes 7 ACC sections for BC. Check out all of the sections online at [Section News and Resources](#).

State of the Mountains annual report is now available online in the [ACC's Environment pages](#) and features photos by our own Mary Sanseverino and an article about our hut.

Thinking ahead: For those tempted to apply, this winter's North Face (TNF) National Leadership Camp will be run out of the Fairy Meadows Hut. Watch the [ACC's Leadership Training web page](#) for more info as it becomes available.

[Mountains 101](#) is still available for anyone wishing to take this FREE and very informative online course. 30,000 people worldwide have gone through the program. You can register [here](#). There is work being done on a future Mountains 201 course!

News flashclimbing will be part of the next Olympics in Tokyo. Competition climbing is a large part of ACC activities nation wide.

Introduction to Ski Based Mountaineering

April 17-22, 2019

By Natasha Salway

Back in April, a group from the ACC-Vancouver Island section participated in a Chilko Basecamp ski mountaineering course in the mountains near Pemberton. In our group, we had four members of the ACC-VI executive, two more members from our section, one person from Vancouver and one from Mackenzie, plus our two guides. We flew in on the Wednesday from Blackcomb Helicopters and set up basecamp close to Mount Currie.

*On the summit of Mt. Currie (L-R): Clarke Gourlay, Martin Hofmann, Colin Mann, Natasha Salway, Josh Slatkoff. Chris Platt in front.
Photo: Sam McKoy*



Once we had established our home for the next five days, we headed out for a short tour to start practicing winter navigation and route finding. We also took some time to make some observations on the snow pack stability in that particular area. That night we got to enjoy preparing our evening meal and making plans for the next day in the comfort of two dome Hilleberg tents.

The next two days, we unfortunately had poor weather and visibility so we stayed at camp and worked on technical skills that could be practiced in the tents. We went over more winter navigation and traveling in a whiteout, using map and compass, rescue systems, knots and the various pieces of gear that our guides use on a day to day basis in the backcountry.

We did manage to get out of camp for a short half day on Friday. We practiced skiing roped for glacier travel and dealing with switchbacks in that situation. We did a little boot packing in a whiteout and then skiing

down while roped up again. It was definitely as challenging and somewhat hilarious as it sounds, especially for the splitboarders who were forced to descend in “ski mode”.



Our basecamp with multiple loose wet point release avalanches in the background. Photo: Natasha Salway

On Saturday April 20th, the day dawned beautiful and clear. We were able to head out in the morning for a full day of touring the slopes around Mount Currie. We had a bit of time to discuss cornices and finding safe ways of approaching the edge with the safety of a belay. After that, we had an amazing run all the way down the North Glacier of Mount Currie, and a very technical and challenging ascent back up in complex avalanche terrain. We then did a short boot pack along a ridge to give ourselves a longer descent back to basecamp.

Sunday, we left camp in the morning, heading for the summit of Mount Currie. The snow was quite a bit harder this day, so we were able to practice more technical

touring with our ski crampons. Pretty soon though, boot packing was needed as the steepness of the slope got more demanding.



*A few turns looking back towards our basecamp.
Photo: Natasha Salway*

We gained the summit ridge and then it was just a short tour all the way up to the summit itself. We decided to split the group at this point and half of us went back to camp, while the other group took one more run down the North West face of Currie, before heading back to camp. After we returned, we broke down camp and prepared to fly out that evening. The weather was changing again and there was concern that we might

not be able to fly on Monday or Tuesday if we stayed longer. We did a bit of practice with snow anchors and padding the edge of a crevasse before the Helicopter arrived.

The following day we all met up near Squamish to go through setting up full rescue systems, and techniques for ascending a rope. Overall this was a very informative course that Chilko Basecamps put together in an absolutely stunning location. I would highly recommend it to anyone who is looking to further advance their technical skills in winter mountaineering.

To learn more about trips that Chilko Basecamps have to offer or get in touch for custom trip ideas, visit their website <https://chilko.ca/>

*Mt. Currie showing the overhead hazards we needed to be aware of.
Photo: Natasha Salway*



*The view from the col. We took a good rest here before we boot packed up the ridge to our left
Photo: Natasha Salway*

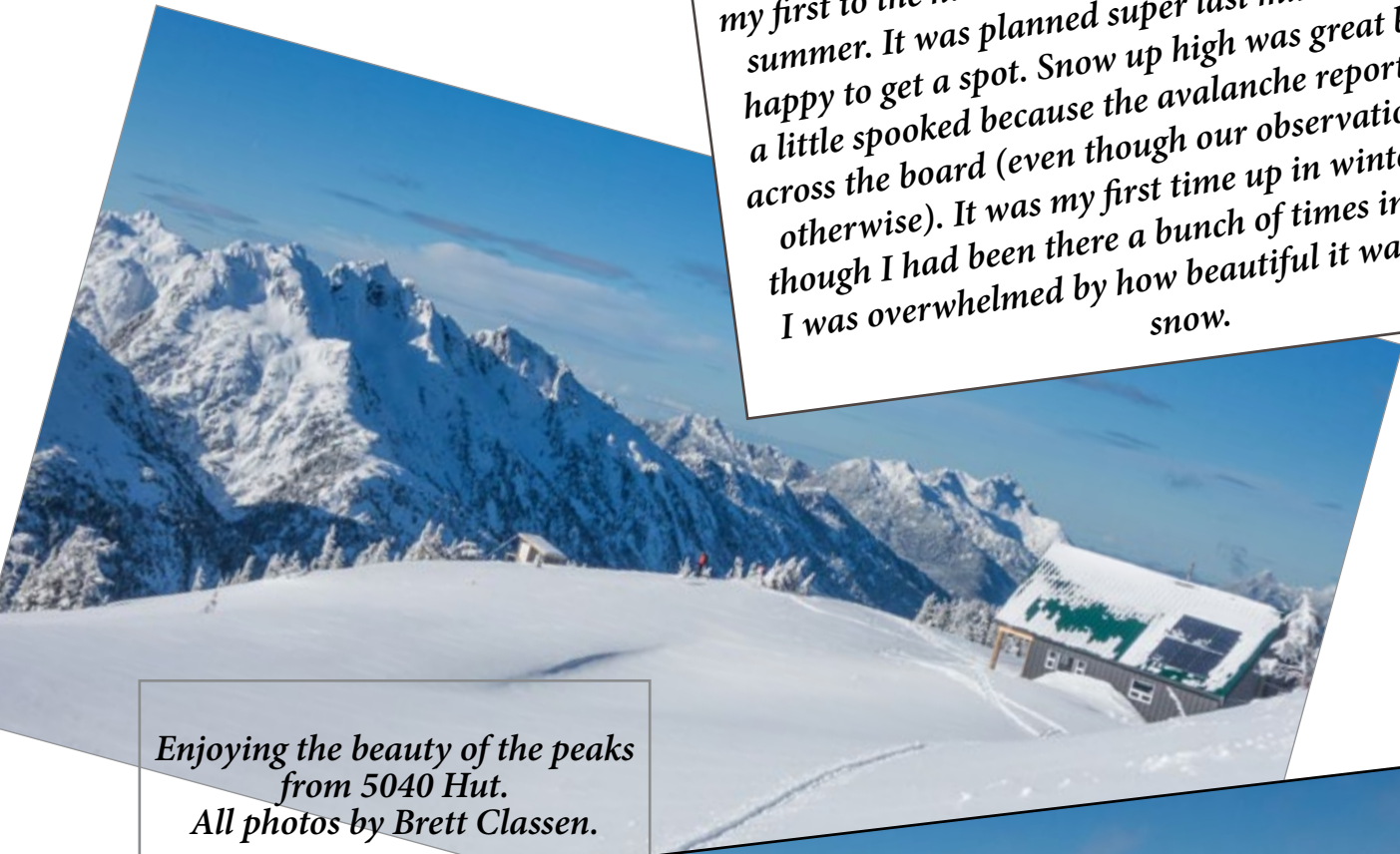


Looking back at the run down the North Glacier before we start our ascent back up. Photo: Natasha Salway

The view from 5040 Hut

by Brett Classen

These photos were all from a weekend trip in February, my first to the hut since I helped volunteering the previous summer. It was planned super last minute and we were happy to get a spot. Snow up high was great but we were a little spooked because the avalanche report was HIGH across the board (even though our observations indicated otherwise). It was my first time up in winter and even though I had been there a bunch of times in the summer I was overwhelmed by how beautiful it was with all the snow.



*Enjoying the beauty of the peaks
from 5040 Hut.
All photos by Brett Classen.*





*Kiersten and Holly
bootpacking*



Powder slash!



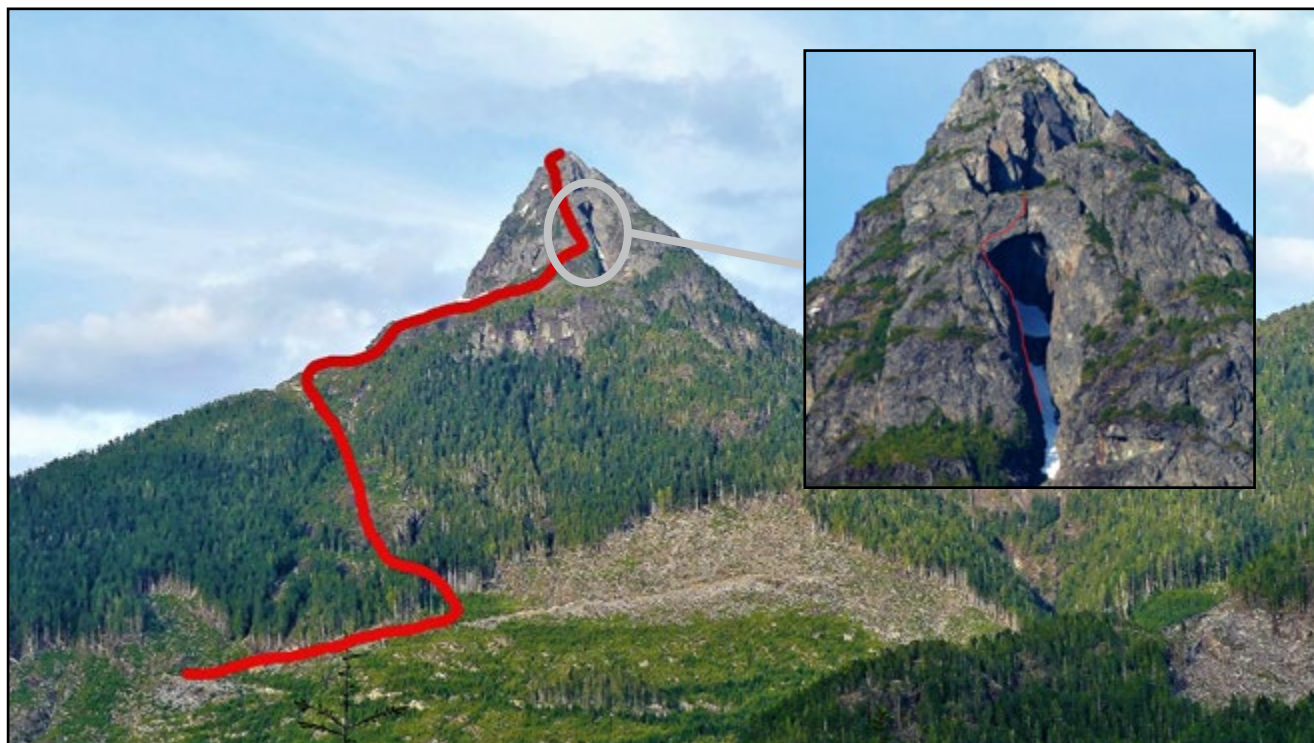
Yay! Happy to be here!

Powder turns back down to the hut.

Conuma Peak Arch - What a Route!

By Chris Jensen

Conuma Peak, the Matterhorn of Nootka Sound, has one feature that makes it unique for the Island: a large arch right near the summit. If you've ever driven to Tahsis on a clear day then this pyramidal peak with the cyclops eye may have caught your eye.



Approach route up Conuma Peak - inset is Conuma arch and route.

[Click to see the peak location on a map.](#)

Photos: Chris Jensen

Last week (May 27 - 29, 2019) Hunter Lee and I headed up to see what the arch offered for climbing potential. For access, we drove to 600m elevation on the west flank and camped below an old looking avy path that we'd try to use to gain the north ridge.

The next day we oozed our way through dense bush and then onto open slabs that dotted this way up. We were sure happy to pop out onto the north ridge with minimal bushwhacking. At about 1250m elevation we wrapped around to the west to get a close look at Conuma's arch.

Once in the gully I peered up and my pupils dilated as they saw the huge arch looming above me. It was way bigger than I expected!! After spending time studying potential lines up it, we exited the gully and headed up its north side for a summit bivy.



*First views of the arch. Photos don't really show the scale of the place.
Photo: Hunter Lee*



*Hunter inspecting the arch for potential routes.
Photo: Chris Jensen*



*Awesome bivy site at the top of Conuma Peak. Kings Peak (L), Elkhorn, Colonel Foster, Golden Hinde, Matchlee, Spendor, Mariner (R) etc can all be seen from up here.
Photo: Chris Jensen*

The next morning we traversed down the south edge of the gully and rapped onto the arch. This mountain is quite loose and unstable in some parts. My feet tingled as I wondered if the arch would even hold us??? We didn't know if anyone had ever stood on



Time to climb! Start of pitch 1
Photo: Hunter Lee

It was clear that there was a lot of loose rock and not many good gear placements...or even crappy placements. We hoped to climb the arch on all gear, but then reality sunk in. Trying that could end with one of us hitting the SOS button. We picked a promising looking line, but it needed work. We did some route prep while rappelling down like rock scaling and bolting.

Once at the bottom I looked up and was again filled with awe at the magnificence of this place. The arch spanned across the sky directly above us. After taking in the significance of our position, I then tied in and headed up. What a fantastic pitch! Steep and airy. Hunter took the gear for Pitch 2 and headed out left from underneath the arch. That pitch went quickly and then it was my turn to head out onto the face of the arch. I've never climbed an arch before....here we go!

Shortly after starting off there was an unexpected hand slip on a dusty hold then that was followed by a foot slip on a glazed spot. These surprises got me ramped up and focused real fast. I shook off the close call and then moved out further right onto the lip of the arch and looked down. Holy F#^K!!! Now this is some wild alpine climbing! With a last deep breath I pulled on top of the arch at its apex. The things we get to experience on this Island!

Summary

May 29, 2019, Conuma Arch

- P1: 30m 5.9
- P2: 25m 5.7
- P3: 35m 5.10a exposed AF

To top out on the summit, climb a low 5th exit pitch (south side of the arch recommended, north side harder), scramble ridge then a low 5th pitch to summit.

Gear: Mixed pro, trad/bolts. A single set of cams to #4 and 9 draws. If you don't mind a run out on some easy ground on pitch 2, then you could ditch #3 and #4 cams.

Rope: A single 60m rope works with snow in the gully. If snow is gone, then a 60m still works if you approach from bottom of route and descended directly back to the north or south ridges, not going back via the gully. If you want to rap the route when snow is gone, then a 60m might still also work if you angled right and upslope as you rapped. You should intercept the slope in the gully. Otherwise just bring a 70m rope to rap the route when snow is gone.

Rappels/Anchors: Rap #1 to land on top of arch: 15m off tree. Rap #2 to get off the top of the arch: 27m bolts. Rap #3 to get under the arch: 25m off a juniper bush and/or horn. Rap #4 to land in bottom of gully: 30m off bolts, but it will be more than 30m as the snow melts out. Snow was ~3m deep so rap straight down will be ~33m without snow.

Water up high will be an issue once snow melts off. Bring lots up from whichever ridge you're approaching from. You could drive up the spur across the Conuma valley to look into the gully to see if there's still snow in there that could be melted for water.

If you fall off the arch make sure you know how to get yourself back up from free hanging space. You can't lower, you have to go up.

We liked our approach route (~3hrs to bottom of arch), but to get to the summit there are several pitches of low 5th climbing and then slow bushy raps on the return. The south side approach has less time consuming climbing, but more bush. Fastest route might be from the south ridge?

This is a top notch wild route. It's in great shape now for other parties. Good pro. If you go up then please take a new summit log book with you (smaller rite-in-rain book).

Editors Note: Lots more images from this trip available online [here \(ACC-VI Facebook Page\)](#). You don't have to be a member of Facebook to see these amazing shots - just ignore the "sign up" notices, and click on the first image.



Our surprise wedding at the summit of Kings Peak on May 25th 2019

By Natasha Salway

Colin and I first met at an Alpine Club of Canada General Mountaineering Camp in 2014, and we got engaged at another ACC GMC in 2016, so it seemed only fitting that our wedding day should somehow include a mountain summit and the ACC.



Natasha Salway and Colin Mann celebrate their wedding on top of Kings Peak.

Photo: Chris George

Back in February of this year, we came up with a plan to lead an ACC trip to Kings Peak via the North Spur route and not let anyone on the trip know that there would be a wedding at the top. With a little help from our friend Barry Hansen, who kindly offered in November to marry us at the top of a mountain, we set our plan in motion.

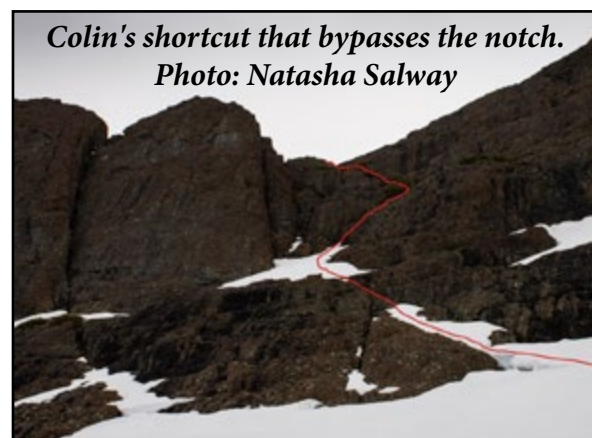
On Friday May 24th, the whole group spent the night at the Buttle Lake Campground. We got up early so we could start our journey to Kings Peak. Saturday May 25th began a little bit cloudy, as our group of eight set off up the trail at 6:00am. We made really good time to the upper meadows and



***Climbing the winter gully up to the glacier.
Photo: Natasha Salway***

then worked our way up to the North Glacier under the Queen's Face. The winter gully was in great condition and it did not take us long to reach the top of it. Half way up the gully, we caught up with two more climbers who turned out to be Chris George and Chris Vanderford. As luck would have it, they were very happy to join our group, since they were interested in the route we were going to take.

At this point, I could see that the weather was looking a bit unsettled and foggy around the summit



***Colin's shortcut that bypasses the notch.
Photo: Natasha Salway***

ridge. We pressed onwards as a group of ten now. Colin spied a possible weakness in the rocks leading up off the glacier towards the ridge and we decided as a group to give it a try. The route had some easy snow ramps that we took advantage of until the rocky ramps led us all the way up to the ridge of the North Spur. It went super well and was quite an enjoyable variation to gain the ridge. It even put us up on the summit side of the infamous notch, which saved us a lot of time. The ridge itself had a bit of snow still lingering on it but it was in good enough condition that we were able to make our way up to the summit without much trouble.



Colin finding his way up the North Spur of Kings Peak. Photo: Natasha Salway

Barry, Ghislain, Paul and Jes working their way up a snowy slope. Photo: Natasha Salway



Much to my joy the clouds that threatened to dampen our day were melting away to reveal Elkhorn and Colonel Foster in all their glory, under blue sky! We let the group have a decent break and some food before Colin and I made the announcement. We thanked everyone for coming up with us that day and casually informed the group that they were about to witness our surprise wedding. After many exclamations of surprise and disbelief, it dawned on everyone that we were totally serious. Barry prepared to



*Natasha and Colin with Barry Hansen officiating.
Photo: Chris George*

begin the ceremony and our very talented photographer, Chris George, found the best possible position to capture our surprise wedding (with only 14% battery life left!) I still cannot believe our luck that Chris decided to climb Kings that day!

The ceremony was short and perfect, complete with our own climbing vows. We promised to be each other's wedded climbing partner, to be each other's belay and piton, on summits, through cruxes, on alpine starts and rainy days. Under a beautiful sky, with no other groups around, surrounded by amazing friends and fellow climbers, with Elkhorn and Foster providing the most stunning backdrop we could have wished for, Colin and I became man and wife! After many photos and congratulations, we began our journey down to the King's-Queen's Col, then down the North Glacier to the winter gully and then we all descended back to the cars.

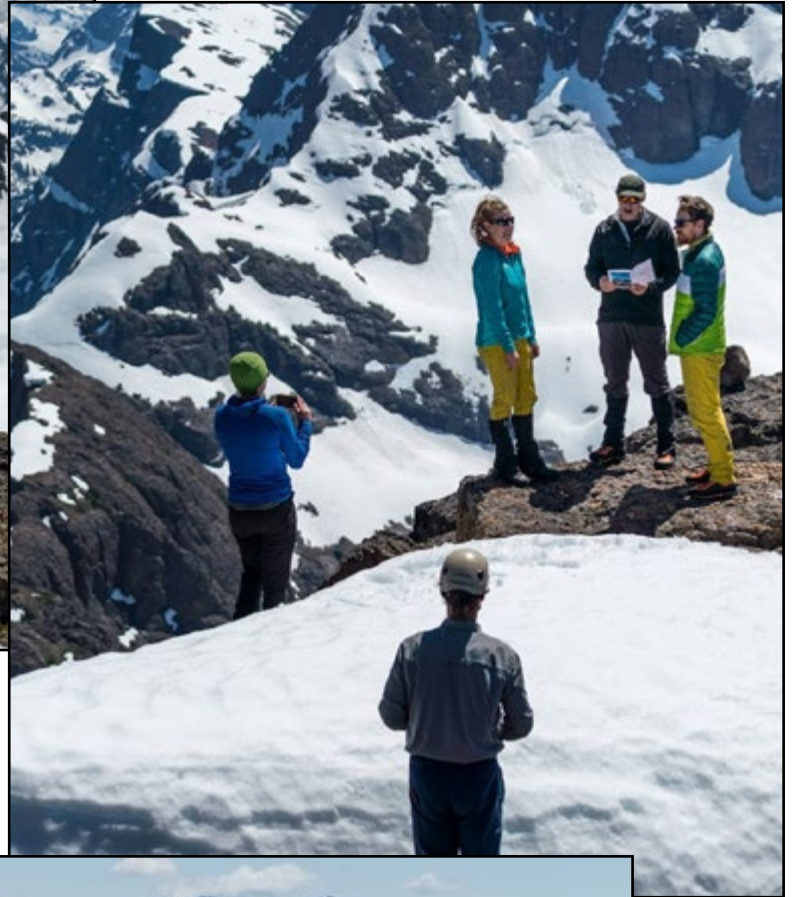
Everything on this day came together in ways that we could not have ever planned. We are uncertain if Colin's shortcut route has been climbed before, or recorded, but if it hasn't, we decided that a very appropriate name for it would be *The Royal Wedding route*, since it was part of our potentially record-breaking wedding processional, over looked by King's and Queen's peaks.

It was the most perfect day, made all the more special by the people who were there with us. We want to thank Jes Scott, Paul Janssen, Robert Ramsay, Doug Scatcherd, Ghislain De Laplante and Chris Vanderford, for being possibly the most unsuspecting wedding party in history! A very special thank you must go to Chris George for being in the right place at the right time and giving us such beautiful photo memories to look back on. Last but definitely not the least, a huge thank you to our friend Barry for giving us the wedding day we had always hoped for and will never forget. As two very active and dedicated ACC trip leaders, this day out in the mountains will be a hard one to top for both Colin and myself.

You can find a blog post on our wedding day that Jes wrote at [We Belong Outside](#) - lots more pictures and a great wedding video that she put together for us!



*Congratulations to Natasha and Colin!!
Photos: Chris George*



Bushwalking in Western Australia,

February 2019

Liz Williams and Graham Maddocks



Pink Galah cockatoos.
Photo: Liz Williams

If WA was a country it would be the 10th largest in the world, with less than three million people. From Perth, we rented an aged campervan and in 25 days covered but a teensy postage stamp of south western Australia, camping in national parks and walking every day.

At Yanchep National Park we had bird-life in abundance, including flocks of endangered Black Cockatoos, and pink Galah cockatoos. The campsite was overrun with 'roos!

Further south we hugged the coast of Geographe Bay en route to Yalgorup National Park which encompasses internationally significant salt wetlands.

One lake is known for its thrombolites – round rock accretions with a surface biofilm that's the closest thing to life 3.5 billion years ago.

En route to Cape Naturaliste we walked through Tuart National Park, the largest remaining section of Tuart forest (*Eucalyptus gomphocephala*) and one of the six forest giants of Southwest Australia. Tuarts, or White Gum, are limited to limestone soils within a narrow stretch of the Swan River coastal plain. Later we took bushwalks through tall, hardwood forests of Karri, Tingle, Marri, and Jarrah (all part of the Myrtle family). The Karri forests were the most impressive – one of the tallest trees in the world, up to 90m, with smooth bark-shedding trunks and an understory of highly-scented Karri Wattle. The Marri trees were easily identified by their huge 'honkey nuts', important food for parrots and cockatoos.



Salt lake in Yalgorup NP.
Photo: Liz Williams



***Graham on a Karri tree ladder.
Photo: Liz Williams***



***Liz at the base of a Red Tingle.
Photo: Graham Maddocks***

From Cape Naturaliste we made our way south to Cape Leeuwin, intercepting the gorgeous Cape-to-Cape coast trail (135km) wherever we could. Cape Leeuwin is the most southwesterly point of Australia, where the Indian Ocean meets the Southern Ocean with a lot of wind and whitecaps (the ‘Cape Effect’). This is where the Antarctic Circumpolar Current heads up along the Western Australian coast. The South Pole was a mere 5,435 km due south.



***Cape-to-Cape Trail.
Photo: Liz Williams***

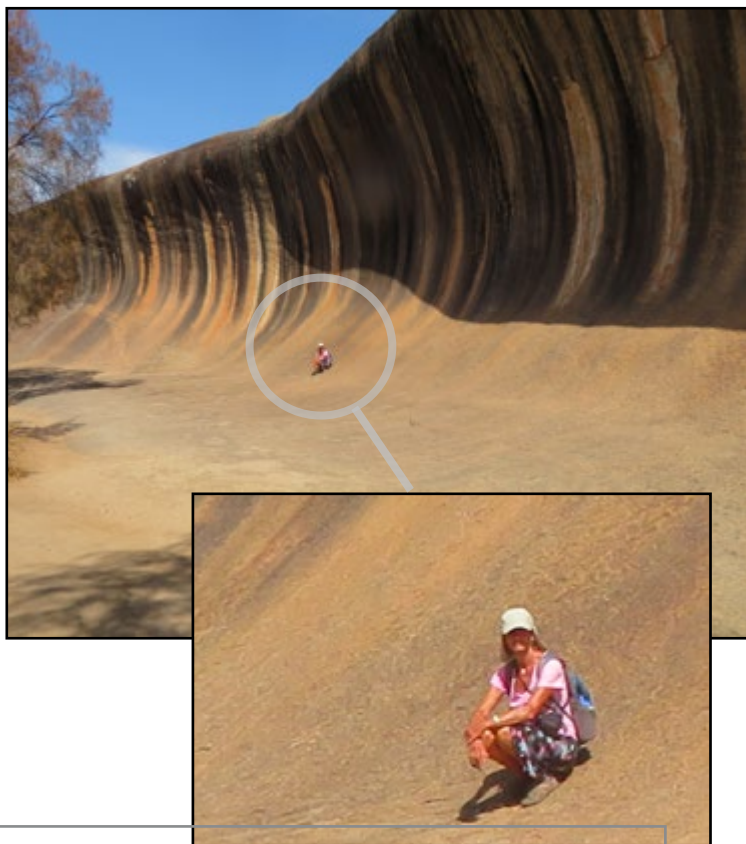
WA's infrastructure is impressive, not least a steel skywalk (wheelchair accessible!) 40m high in the Tingle forest (red and yellow gum trees). The Red Tingle (*Eucalyptus jacksonii*) has a huge buttressed trunk up to 20m in circumference. In the Jarrah forest we made camp at an old logging site which provided at the turn of the last century rock-hard Jarrah wood paving stones all over the world.

From Albany we headed north to the Stirling Range for some final hikes. Rugged peaks rise up from the surrounding lowlands providing a natural divide between coastal and interior plant communities. We climbed Bluff Knoll, 1095m, the highest peak in the southern half of WA, and one of the very few places in WA that ever gets snow.

A few more sights and hikes and it was time to loop through the wheat belt back to Perth, along mostly empty roads except for the 'road trains', up to 120' long if you're thinking of overtaking!

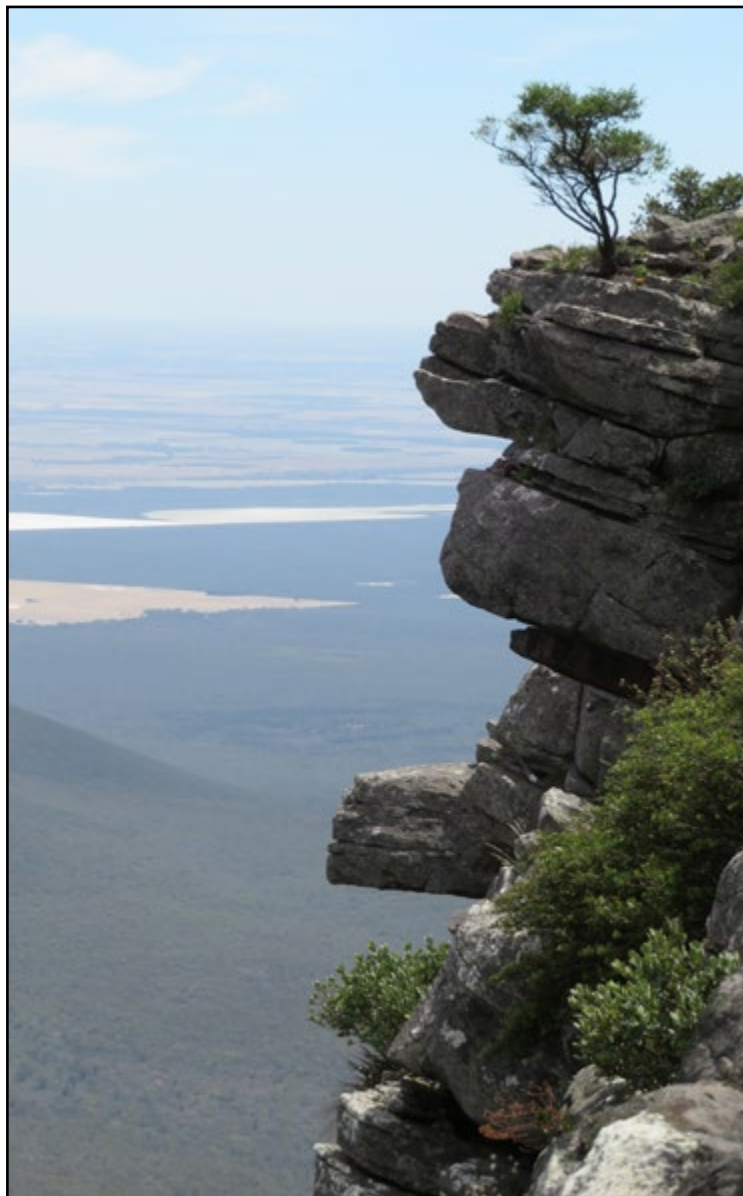


*One of Australia's many types of wattle.
Photo: Liz Williams*



*Liz in the curl at Wave Rock.
Photo: Graham Maddocks*

Bluff Knoll, 1095m, the highest peak in the southern half of WA. Photo: Liz Williams



e-Trails: Mountain News and Stories

Nathaniel Moore reports: "Everyone is welcome to attend the Victoria launch of Best of the Great Trail". Info at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2219288071440617/>

Chris Istace has a 5040 Hut story on his Mindful Explorer website. Check out Chris Istace's story and photos: [5040 Peak - Hike, Ski, or Snowshoe](#) for more great images and stories from the 5040 Hut.

ACC State of the Mountains: The 2019 [State of the Mountains Report](#) is another tour de force from the Alpine Club of Canada. Full of articles of importance to those of us who love the mountains - and to those of us who need the mountains. Which, as you'll discover in this edition, is ALL of us!



*Rainbow Mountain, Peru - ACC-VI 2018 Photo Competition Winner - [Summer Activity category](#).
Photo: Alcina DeOliveria*

EXECUTIVE

Chair: Catrin Brown, chair@accvi.ca

Secretary: David Lemon, info@accvi.ca

Treasurer: Clarke Gourlay, treasurer@accvi.ca

Membership:

Kathy Kutzer, membership@accvi.ca

Access and Environment

*Barb Baker, access@accvi.ca

BMFF Coordinator

Anna-Lena Steiner, Lise Gagnon, bmff@accvi.ca

Bushwhacker Annual

Editor: Robie Macdonald

bushwhacker@accvi.ca

Education

Colin Mann & Alois Schonenberger,

education@accvi.ca

Equipment

Mike Hubbard (backpacking, winter),

250 888 8370, jmhubbard@telus.net

Bernard Friesen (climbing/safety),

bernardpicardfriesen@gmail.com

Clarke Gourlay (upper Island) avi gear rental,

treasurer@accvi.ca

Summer Camp

Liz Williams, summercamps@accvi.ca

FMCBC Rep

Anyia Reid fmcbs@accvi.ca

Hut

Chris Jensen, huts@accvi.ca

Communications Team:

Brianna Coates, Jes Scott, Karun Thanjuvar

Martin Hofmann

Library/Archives/History

Tom Hall (Library/Archives),

250 592 2518, hall.pnw@shaw.ca

*Lindsay Elms (History), 250 792 3384,

lindsayjelms@gmail.com

National Rep

Christine Fordham, natrep@accvi.ca

Leadership

Natasha Salway, leadership@accvi.ca

Schedule

Karun Thanjavur, schedule@accvi.ca

Evening Events Coordinator

*Peggy Taylor, events@accvi.ca

Website

Jes Scott, webmaster@accvi.ca

Memorial Fund

*Geoff Bennett, 250 853 7515,

geoff.bennett@shaw.ca

Trailrider Program Coordinator

*Caroline Tansley,

250 886 8038 trailrider@accvi.ca

Kids and Youth Program Coordinator

*Derek Sou, kidsandyouth@accvi.ca

* Non Executive Coordinators



Type 2 fun



***From the Front Cover:
Clarke Gourlay on The Colonel***

Taken by Roxanne Stedman and a winner in the Summer Activity category of the ACC-VI 2018 Photo Competition.

Thank you to this month's contributors:

***Geoff Bennett, Catrin Brown, Brett Classen, Alcina DeOliveria,
Lindsay Elms, Christine Fordham, Chris George, Chris Istace,
Chris Jensen, Sam McKoy, Hunter Lee, Graham Maddocks, Nathaniel
Moore, Natasha Salway, Jes Scott, Skafti Sinclair,
Roxanne Stedman, Liz Williams.***

Well done everyone!

