



# OCTOBER SAREX



LASSIES WALL INTRODUCTORY SETUPS

## White Water Wall Vertical Rescue Training

The objectives of the weekend were focussed around the assessment and safe management of a vertical rescue scene (especially the loose zone that exists at the top of most Tasmanian cliffs). Specifically:

1. Anchor and rigging systems to support a variety of rescue methods and belays;
2. SARINZ raise / lower system;
3. Counter balance raise and lower with "Jigger".
4. Double prussic belays.
5. Use of Sked stretcher and how to "barrow boy".
6. The use if the equipment in the three Police Vertical Rescue Bags.



PLAYING WITH "JIGGERS"



LOOKING FOR WHALES



IVAN AND JANE

# WORKING IN THE SHIT ZONE



Saturday started at Lassies Wall with the initial setups for safety lines, the main and belay lines. Both Emlyn and Tony McKenny went straight into teaching mode and managed to give structure and clarity to the weekend. Thanks to both of you.

Whilst Steve Goss, Jed and Al Adams were new to the SARINZ system they picked it up without difficulty - including the more complex change over from lower to raise. Jane and Serena were already familiar with VR and had no trouble adapting caving methodology to the cliff situation. Whilst anchor placements were in abundance, initial set ups took longer than they should in a real situation - over an hour! This was partly due to the specific requirements of the SARINZ system as well as having to learn to work as a larger team with specific tasks. However by the end of the morning setups were reasonably fast and most had taken turns at the various tasks such as managing the double prussik belays, the haul and working as edge-man or

rescuer. As the morning progressed team work started to appear.

The afternoon saw us above Light Fingered Madison testing a counterbalance rescue. This did not go so well with the ropes running in a crack and too much friction. More work required here and a few of us will workshop this a bit later.

Sunday was used to put the skills, team work and systems together in a more realistic setting. Emlyn found a typical, loose and rubbishy area for the rescue. Steve coordinated, Al went first and cleared the edge, Tony and Serena set up the belay for Ivan; Jed and Jane did Main with Steve, and Emlyn acted as rescuer. The whole system took 50 minutes to set up and only 5 minutes to complete the haul! Given the situation, this was a creditable effort and would be highly acceptable in any rescue. The majority of the weekends objectives were achieved and we now have a reasonable cohort of climbers and caver's familiar with the system.



# The Future

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As you may be aware, the CCT have been compiling a list of people that can assist the Police in the event of the VR incident. We are now getting to the business end, in that we have a number of members that are versed (to varying degrees) in the VR techniques used by police. More importantly we can combine this with our knowledge of various climbing areas. An incident may unfold at a crag with easy access, or quite possibly somewhere very remote in an alpine environment where access is difficult at best! In the event of a remote area job, it is quite likely that the Rescue Helicopter will be used to deploy a team. Those who are prepared to participate in these jobs will need to be able to go into the field at very short notice in possibly very bad weather for up to 1-2 days. It is also worth noting that these types of jobs are rare, but individuals need to be organised to go at short notice with a degree of

pre-packing ... think about the victims time frame for survival ...!

## Callout Procedure:

As a consequence of the last two training weekends, we now have a realistic callout list of climbers familiar with POLSAR systems. It is envisaged that, in the event of a callout, the police will contact the first person on the list (Stu Scott), who will then initiate calling out the CCT members on the list. If police cannot contact the 1<sup>st</sup> person on the list, they will progress down the list until contact is made. The fastest way to make contact with everyone on the list, is to send out a group text. Therefore, it is envisaged that 1.) an SMS alert will be sent out, then if that person is available they will SMS back stating this. Then, 2.) individuals that are able to assist, will then be contacted by phone.

## Maintaining Skills:

To be part of this list, we are suggesting that there

needs to be a minimum amount of VR training that the individual does every year. In no way do we want to make this onerous, and we acknowledge that everyone spends a lot of time on rope during the year. The CCT will try and organise 4 VR training sessions a year. POLSAR, SES and the cavers may run other VR sessions, which can also be included. Initially, we are suggesting that to maintain skills, everyone should aim to attend 2 VR trainings per year. This is negotiable though, but we do need to demonstrate that everyone on the list are maintaining a relevant and active skill set.

## Where to from here:

In summer it is intended to conduct a simulated rescue in a more challenging situation such as on Mt Wellington; perhaps Moonraker or Chancellor. More generally, if you are an experienced climber/mountaineer and wish to become involved, contact Stu Scott.