



Kia ora ...
BOOTS December 2020

WCAC END OF YEAR SOCIAL EVENT - FREE.....

THIS TUESDAY!!!!
15TH DECEMBER AT THE CLIMBING WALL

XMAS PARTY!!! DRESS-UP THEME "2020"

It's the last night of indoor climbing for 2020. The family session will run as usual from 5pm to 6:30pm, followed by the evening session. There will be no climbing fees.

Such a busy time of year but we've heard a whisper that the merry fellow in red and white might park his reindeer and sleigh at the GDC long enough for him to pop in and say "Hi" towards the end of the family session.

All WCAC members are invited to rock up for this evening's get-together. Join us for supper and music, games for young and old, (and free climbing for the climbers).

The WCAC is shouting pizza, tea, coffee, and juice but we welcome any contributions to supper to add variety!!

See you there...

Karen



After the annual Tuatara Trail Run - happy trail runners looking less muddy than most. Great family fun.

Editor Kōrero

End of year already!!

Everything seems to be winding down just when we have more time and energy.

Keep an eye on the WCAC Facebook page though as there will be lots going on, invites to join, and if you want to initiate a club activity, promote it on our page to get the word out.

This edition of BOOTS: a quick summary.....

- WCAC Club Hut - Arthurs Pass - a second call for your ideas
- Resoling your climbing shoes
- Book review - *Amazon Woman*
- Funny BOOTS
- A Poem
- Buy/Sell
- Committee Contacts
- Gear Hire and Club Hut info

Contributions for future editions of Boots.

You are invited to contribute to whatever you would like to see in Boots.

- Items for Sale or Wanted
- Book Reviews
- Poetry and Prose
- Letters to the Editor
- Humour
- Dear Daisy / Aunt Agony / Outdoor Guru
- Anything else you would like to see included

The deadline for contributions to the next BOOTS is 31st January 2021:

Many pictures are worth many thousand words so please send through your latest trip shots, with a few words :)

Karen Grant

BOOTS Editor

boots@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

WCAC Club Hut - Arthurs Pass

Our Arthurs Pass hut is getting another makeover, to make it warmer in winter.

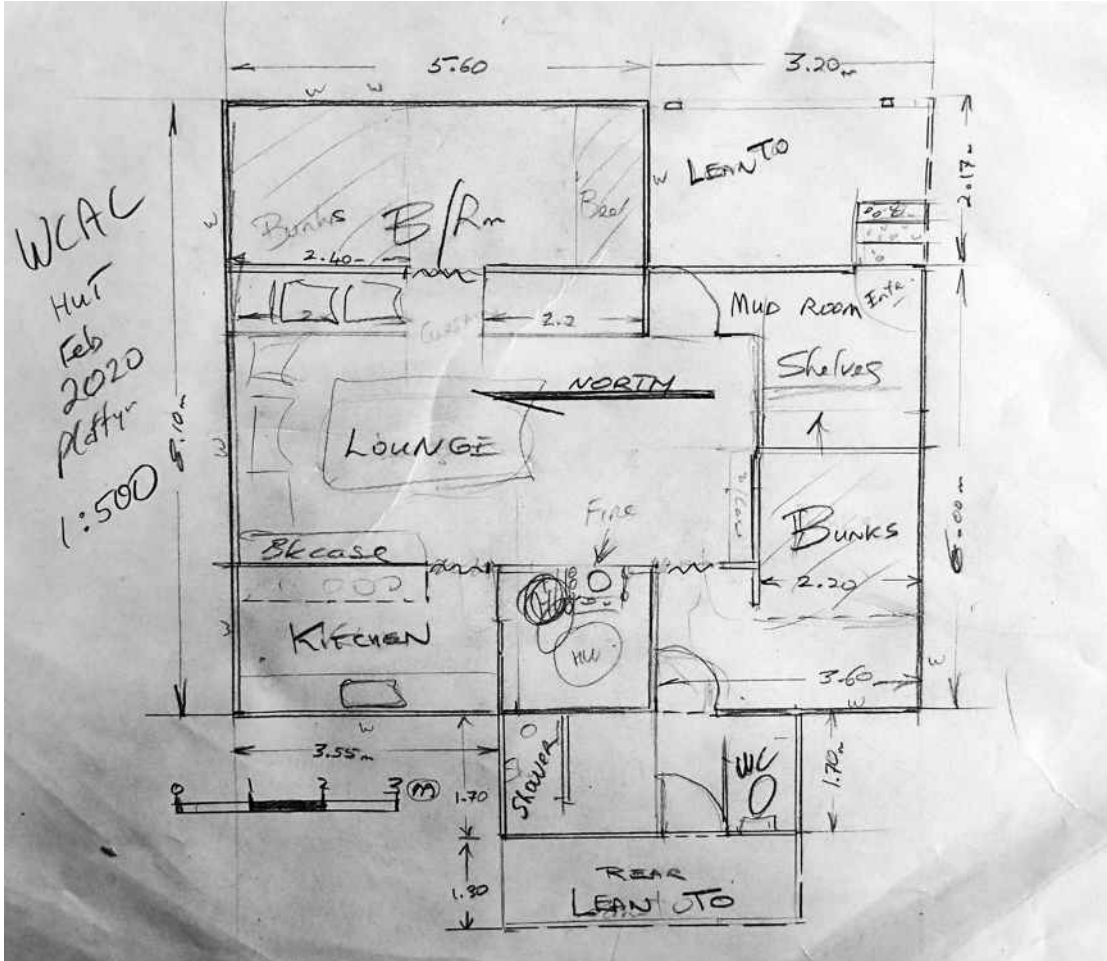
The plan is to install double-glazed windows but there has been a suggestion that the northern end of the 'lounge' could have a double-glazed ranch-slider to let more light in, and perhaps a deck outside of it.

The small kitchen can be a bit cramped when there's a good turn-out.

What do you think?

Have a gander at the totally accurate schematic below.....

If you have any ideas/suggestions for hut improvements, please get in touch with the committee (contacts are at the end of this edition of Boots).



Above: Plan of current

WCAC hut layout. What would you like to see improved?

Schematic: Paul Caffyn

Recommended by a happy WCAC customer: cost \$85 including postage!!

CLIMBING SHOES – CARE AND RESOLING

If you're like many of the dirt-bag climbers out there who a) hate to spend money, b) can't bear to throw away old climbing gear or c) like to think they've got a small carbon footprint (air miles not included) then you might be pleased to know that resoling your much loved climbing shoes, is available once again in NZ.

When the manager of Hangdog Camp in Takaka could no longer bear tossing out rental shoes after a single season's use, he decided to get back out his cobbler's hammer from the 90s and see if he still had the knack. In true Kiwi style, local friends started dropping off their shoes, their friends then dropped off their shoes, and before he knew it, random postal bags were appearing in the Hangdog letterbox.

Juggling resoling between running the camp in summer and annual winter climbing trips has meant life has been extra busy. However, Troy's enjoying being back on the tools, and stoked to be able to offer a resole service again to the NZ climbing community.

Shoe care

When it comes to stretching out the life of your beloved climbing shoes, the best thing you can do is look after them. This means using a mat to keep your shoes clean, taking them off in between climbs, and ensuring they dry out between sessions.

Why resole?

Anyone that has broken in a pair of climbing shoes will know intimately the process of getting the perfect fit. Not only will you save on pain, it's up to 70% cheaper than buying a new pair. Depending on the quality of the manufacturing, shoe materials, care and hygiene, shoes can be resoled up to five times, and in turn reducing your carbon footprint. Win, win.

When to resole?

In an ideal world, you'll stop climbing on your shoes when you've worn through the sole but not yet started to wear into the rand. The rand is the rubber that wraps around the sides and over the top of the toe, holding the shoes shape and structure. It is NOT designed to be climbed on. The sole however, is the stiffer piece of rubber that covers the bottom of the shoe and an obvious line (on most shoes) indicates where the rand meets the sole. Keep an eye on this. Troy can replace rands if need be, and also offers additional bumpers (toe caps) for indoor gyms and schools.

Lockdown has meant the summer resole backlog has cleared and with no climbing trip on the horizon, the Rock Cobbler will be on the hammer this winter. So if you've been procrastinating cleaning out those gear bins, now's the time to see if a resole might just be what you need to get those old trusties through another season.



Climbing Shoe Resoles

Resole



\$55 pair + \$10 Return Shipping

Ideally, resole when the sole is 90-95% worn, and you have not yet worn into the rand rubber.

Resole & Rand



\$75 pair + \$10 Return Shipping

Rands can be replaced if the shoe material is intact.

R.I.P



Unfortunately we are unable to attach rands to toes.

1. Post your shoes, along with your contact details (name, phone number & return address) to: Rock Cobbler, 52 Rangihaeata Road, RD2, Takaka, 7182
2. When your resole is complete, we will be in touch with the total cost and details for payment. As soon as payment is received, your shoes will be shipped.

If you are unsure what repairs your shoes need, just send me a photo and I'll let you know what to expect.

Troy 027 525 8531

| Rockcobblernz@gmail.com

| FB [Rockcobbler](#)

Can my favourite boots be resoled?



BOOK REVIEW

Title: ***Amazon Woman***

Subtitle: *Facing Fears, Chasing Dreams, and a Quest to Kayak the World's Largest River*

from Source to Sea

Author: Darcy Gaechter

Published: 2020

Publisher: Pegasus Books, USA

Contents: 224 pp, colour photo plate section, bibliography

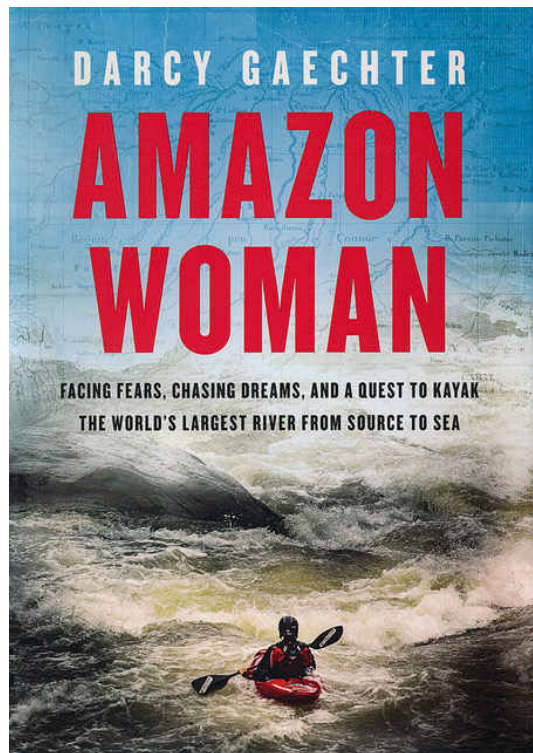
Cover: Hardcover,

ISBN: 978-1-64313-313-0

Availability: Book Depository NZ \$39.15

Review: Paul Caffyn

Inside the dustjacket, this book is described as part memoir, part feminist manifesto. Although the author, as a freshman at a USA high school, was a bit on the small side, only five-foot-tall and weighing 82 pounds, Darcy Gaechter made up for her small stature by doing really well with sport, especially competitive volleyball.



There was a chip on her shoulder certainly but I would not tag this book as a feminist manifesto. At university she was asked to take a semester off and go kayaking in Nepal, and to the 20-year-old's surprise, her parents agreed.

That initial trip led to a passion for white-water rafting and kayaking. Darcy has made a career out of guiding and instruction and ultimately owning a company with her partner, which guided paddlers on white-water adventures in Ecuador. The third character involved in the narrative of *Amazon Woman* is a wealthy English computer whiz who back in 2004 decided he needed a huge challenge, as he felt his life was slipping away. A climb of Everest was ruled out, as too many had done it, but fewer people had descended the full length of the Amazon River than had walked on the moon. His choice was made. Midge had absolutely no paddling experience which is how he ended up meeting both Darcy and her partner Don with finally an invitation for them to guide him in a source-to-sea mission on the Amazon River.

After a brief note on which river is the longest/largest in the world and a glossary of kayaking terms, Darcy introduces the many dangers the team will face. After an excerpt 'Losing Midge in the Dam Site' from day 20, the team members are introduced, and the next chapter is mostly about motivation for their paddle.

Once the expedition begins at Lago Acucocha, Darcy's account of the paddling, portaging and overnight camping is engrossing, especially as the initial strong relationships between the three of them start to fray. Three can be an awkward number for any expedition but when Midge who lacks the serious white-water experience of Darcy and Don, but who is funding the entire expedition, starts to apply what are viewed as onerous demands by Don, this almost leads to an early team breakup. What with really serious Grade V rapids, concerns with running the Red Zone, where Shining Path rebels have killed paddlers in the past, also

biting bugs and rockfalls, there is just so much mental pressure on the team.

Beyond the white-water canyons, a motorized canoe, a Peruvian Navy vessel and a finally a chartered boat shadows the trio; the boat used for overnight camping when the river widens out to kilometres wide. They had swapped their white-water kayaks for racing sea kayaks with a cockpit. Frustrations loom large with the slow paddling speed of Midge, but Darcy's volleyball skills help her interact on shore where women villagers play very competitive volleyball.

On day 148, the team reach a tagged GPS point marking the river mouth and Darcy feels the start of post-expedition depression, acknowledging the magnitude of the paddle but that further challenges were necessary to satisfy her paddling passion.

An 'Afterword' rounds off the narrative nicely, while an 'Author's Note' states that both Don and Midge felt Darcy was 'unfairly harsh' in her treatment of them. She acknowledges all three of them acted 'crazy, mean and irrational at turns', but to me the book is simply a 'warts and all' story, well told.

The bibliography is mostly a list of websites, quoted and footnoted in the text. I am disappointed that Darcy did not include books of those who have gone before, those who have kayaked or rafted down the Amazon, such as:

Alan Holman's *White River, Brown Water* (1985)

Joe Kane's classic *Running the Amazon* (1989)

Francois Odendall's *Rafting the Amazon* (1992)

Colin Angus's *Amazon Extreme* (2001)

Ben Kozel's *Three Men in a Raft* (2002)

What also disappoints is the lack of a decent map (or stage maps) to show the route followed; the half page map at the end of the colour plate segment, shows only the top half of South America with bugger all detail. All of those books listed above have really good maps, double page and several with section maps.

Also disappointing is the number and choice of photos in the colour plate section, 22 in total, and not a single black and white photo included with the text. Why do publishers surround photos with as much blank white page as the photo? There is just one of a white-water rapid, and even the cover photo (nice jacket design) is a stock white-water photo, not of the author and I surmise not even on the Amazon. However my niggles re photos, lack of maps and book design lie solely with the publisher and not the author. When you sign over your manuscript to a publisher, you forfeit any involvement in the book; no input re layout, overall design or choice of photos. And if it is your first book, you are only too happy to see it in print!

Overall a superb read, a wonderful insight into the highlights and perils faced with a paddle down the Amazon, with snippets of bygone history, encounters with locals (good and bad), and ups and downs with personal dynamics within their team. Darcy was 35 when she began this 148-day expedition. Is it a feminist manifesto? Definitely not. A bit of a chip on her shoulder re being of small stature but she certainly is a talented white-water paddler and writer.

Paul Caffyn 28 July 2020



FUNNY BOOTS



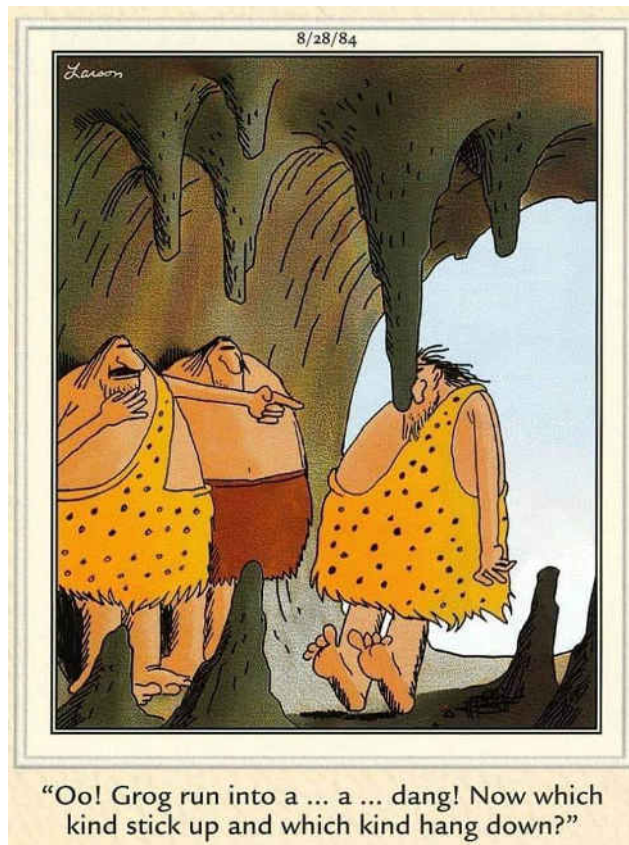
I lived in a houseboat for a while, and started seeing the girl next door. Eventually we drifted apart.

A man tried to sell me a coffin today. I told him, that's the last thing I need.

The neighborhood barber just got arrested for selling drugs. We had been his customers for 8 years. We had no idea he was a barber.

100 years ago everyone had a horse and only the rich had cars. Nowadays everyone has a car and only the rich have horses.
Oh how the stables have turned.

Did you hear about McDonald's trying to get into the high end steakhouse market? It was a Big McSteak.



POETRY

Borrowed with gratitude from <https://www.everywritersresource.com/poemeveryday/solo-cliff-climbing-james-gering/>

Solo Cliff Climbing

by James Gering

If Aaron falls from the low crux,
he breaks a leg, but higher will have
the reapers exulting.
He cruises passes the crux,
traverses diagonally up the rock,
commits to the steep arête.

Josie, watching from the base,
asks her bloke one last time to accept
a safety rope, like a sane climber.
But why, he muses – the sandstone
is caressing his fingers,
his head is in the zone.

Nearing the summit,
Aaron stretches for a pivotal hold,
but misses by a fingernail.
He backs off and rests by alternating his feet
on a hold the size of a domino.

A dreaded tremor starts up in one leg
and the reapers get word.
They rock up, whooping,
pile out of their hearse and undertake
to cajole Aaron into their car.

Last time Aaron had reached the summit
of a solo climb, the dog had slunk off,
the endorphins shimmied and he'd hoped
for sky-drenched love with Josie,
but she recoiled and gave him the ultimatum.

Sweat now beads his temples.

The reapers lick the soles of his Sportivas
and flirt with his fingertips.

The trees on the ground appear tiny,
Josie too, arms folded, not looking.

Must get the feet higher, Aaron whispers,
breathing deep. The rock exudes
a warm, gun-powdery scent,
strangely uplifting.
His breathing steadies. The tremor stops.

Now his hands and feet work
in concert through the final moves.
The reapers, jeering, pile back
into their vehicle and drive away.

Aaron lies on the rocky platform
at the top, open to heaven,
waiting for celestial bands to play,
dancers to sashay in.
Nothing.

He moves to the edge and scans
the drop. No Josie at the bottom.
Then Aaron sees her:
soloing the pathway out.

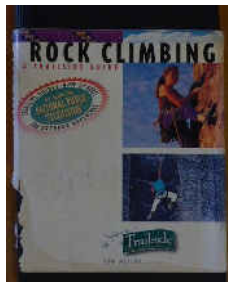
BUY / SELL

- Fisher & Paykel upright washing machine. In good nick, has been in storage and not needed - txt or ph 027 343 7954

- *Mountaineering 5th Ed - The Freedom of the Hills* \$10 - ph/txt 027 768 6282



- Rock Climbing - a Trailside Guide - Don Melloe \$5 - ph/txt 027 768 6282



- I have two copies of this spiral-bound edition of *Paparoa Climbs* and I'm looking for good homes for them. Phone 03 731 1806 or email kayakpc@xtra.co.nz



General Club Information

Current Club Officers 2020-2021

President: Jason Blair
president@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

Vice-president: Alan Jemison
vicepresident@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

Secretary: Brittany Jenkins
admin@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

Treasurer: Karen Grant
treasurer@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

Club Captain: Holly Lindsay
trips@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

The committee meet approximately every 6 weeks. Any club member is welcome to attend. Committee minutes will be made available to club members once approved by the committee.

BOOTS Editor

Karen Grant boots@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

WCAC Gear Hire

The WCAC gear is mostly housed at the Climbing Wall (the old Civic Centre) and accessed during the scheduled Tuesday climbing sessions (6:30pm to 8:30pm).

The last climbing wall session for 2020 is Tuesday 15th December. Until climbing sessions resume on Tuesday 2nd February 2021, please contact Jase Blair to organise gear hire.

We have ice axes, crampons, helmets, harnesses, avalanche kits, snow shovels, bouldering mats, a club Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), and more.

The rates are very reasonable and we certainly want you to be safe out there.



Photo: Jason Blair

ARTHUR'S PASS - WEST COAST ALPINE CLUB HUT

We have a hut in Brake Hill Road. There's plenty of room for multiple groups to stay and be convivial. It's got a good bit of history to go with it and has had a lot of work put in by past members to maintain and improve it. Check out the new carpet and lino. If there are any tradies out there in the club, please let us know; we can always use your help.

Staying at the HUT:

For the code please contact a committee member prior to heading up. We do change the code and will let the club members know when we have changed it.

The Hut is available to members and approved non-members (eg. former members, friends, and other tramping clubs, etc). To ensure fair use of the hut for all, those wishing to stay longer than 5 nights must get permission from a club officer first.

It is possible to book the hut for your exclusive use by applying to the Committee in advance and paying a deposit. This is then advertised to all members.

A fire warden must be appointed for the duration of your stay (as per our Fire Permit) and any problems at the Hut, eg. with plumbing, should be reported promptly to a committee member. Before leaving Hut users should organise the method of fee payment, sign the Hut Log Book, and ensure the Hut is secure.

Current Rates:

Members: \$8 per for adults and \$4 for school children

Non Members: \$16 per for adults and \$8 for school children

Hut fees should be paid promptly in one of three ways

- Put money in Hut Box (with names of those who stayed and when)
- Mail your payment to the WCAC Treasurer at PO Box 136 Greymouth, 7840
- Pay by direct credit to the Club Account at ASB Greymouth. Account No. 12 3168 0044967 02

Any questions, comments, or queries just contact one of the committee officers on the above contact list.

And that's it for now.

Keep in touch and send your pics and news through to me whenever you have a spare moment.

boots@westcoastalpineclub.org.nz.

Ka kite āno,

Karen Grant, *Boots* Editor

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www.westcoastalpineclub.org.nz

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