

Rock climbing is a dangerous sport

None of the information contained in this document has been verified. Treat all fixed gear with suspicion, route grades may be incorrect and the rock may be poor. The VCC and editors of this document take no responsibility for any injury arising from the use of this information. If there are mistakes in this guide then let the editor know.

This document lists new routes in the Grampians that have appeared in the VCC newsletter ARGUS. If you have done any new routes or have information that clarifies or questions existing beta - then send it in to argus@vicclimb.org.au so we can include them in the next issue of the relevant Guidebook. If a route has a star or two it means that the first ascensionists think it might be worth doing. Subsequent ascents will establish this, so get out there and give them a go.

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS

NG/BA – A Rockclimbers Guide to the Northern Grampians by Bill Andrews

NGU/BA – The North Grampians Update by Bill Andrews

MSA/KL – Mount Stapyhton Amphitheatre by Kieran Loughran

MOUNT STAPYLTON AREA

THE CROWS NEST [p.76 NG/BA]

Beasts Of The Air 55m 8

A pleasant ramble with barely adequate protection. Start 30m left of *Farewell To Arms* and 10m left of a small blocky buttress almost touching the face at a small left facing corner. 1. 35m Move 2m right into line and up through bulge tending left near top to a bushy ledge. 2. 20m Traverse 5m up and left to right leading diagonal corner. Up corner and wall. Andrew Webb, Glen Donohue (alt) 29.10.00

MOUNT PLEASANT [new area]

A small cliff within easy flat walking distance of the Mt Stapyhton Campground. The sort of thing you stumble across when killing time on a miserable wet weekend - and quite useful on those sorts of occasions. From the art site car park cross the creek (involves fighting through unpleasant thick new growth but is mercifully short) to the open flats beyond. Turn left and follow these flats for about 10 minutes to a small steep block distinguished by a large red overhang/cave across the front of the main buttress. The cliff has two prominent corner lines on its left side. The right hand one starts above the left end of the main cave and can be accessed from a handy block, this is OP&OH.

Hunter Valley 12m 12

Around left of *OP&OH* is another obvious corner line with an overhang at the top. The juggy cracks in the wall left of the corner then the line up the arete. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 10.6.2001

* OP&OH 12m 14

The corner starting above the left end of the roof of the cave. From the top of the large block haul into the line and up. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 10.6.01

Rosehill 10m 17

Around right of the cave is an overhanging corner. Good jamming. Jeremy Maddox, Philip Armstrong. 10.6.01

Philip 10m 5

The easy chimney right of *Rosehill*. Jeremy Maddox. 10.6.01

Elizabeth 10m 16

The wide crack right of *Philip*. Take a large cam (Camalot 4+). Jeremy Maddox, Philip Armstrong. 10.6.01

Semillon 12m 16

Nice climbing up the left leading flake on the wall right of *Elizabeth* finishing up the short hanging corner. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 10.6.01

Lovedale 10m 14

The knobby cracks up the wall just right of the start of *Semillon*. Jeremy Maddox, Philip Armstrong. 10.6.01

SENTINEL CAVE [new area]

15-20 minute walk-in. This is a large cave of excellent rock high up in the valley behind Mt Stapyhton Campground with an easy flat walk-in. Hidden amongst vast amounts of choss this area will be home to some hard and very steep sport routes in the future. From the Mt Stapyhton Campsite aboriginal shelter carpark walk south east following the east side of a vegetated creek. A few minutes into the walk you will pass an isolated pillar of rock with a few ok routes on it. Keep following the creek, walking along nice kangaroo grass and ferns for ten minutes until you can see a red cave above some large walls up and to the left. Try and locate some rock cairns and follow these up gentle hill. Follow left branch of 'creek' up small rock gully on the left side of the cave until you can traverse directly right across exposed rock to get into the cave. A RB is positioned at the end of this traverse to use as an anchor to belay people who may be scared of the traverse. It can also be used to abseil out of the cave when the traverse is wet from rain. Routes listed left to right.

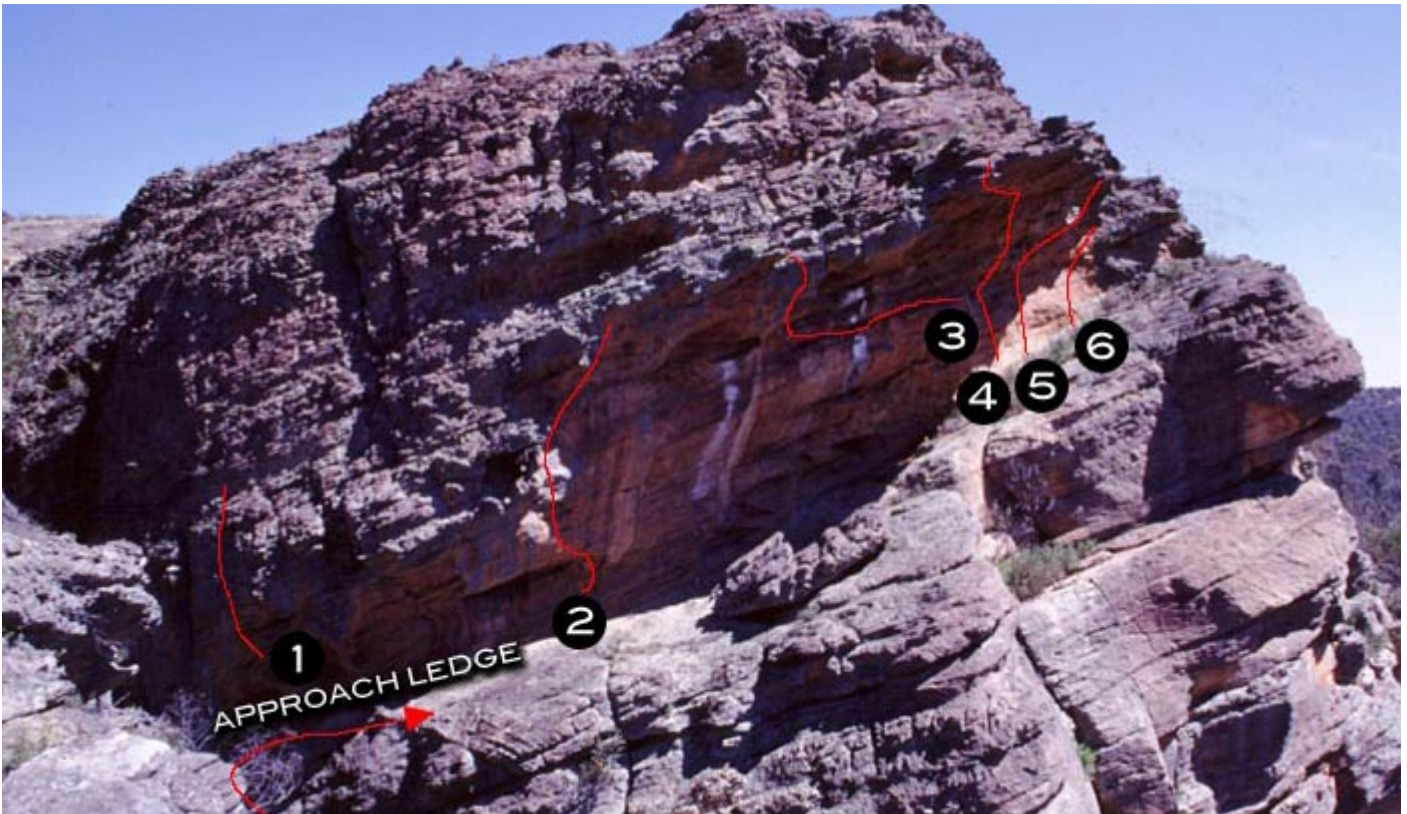
Half Shark Half Man 14m 17

Nice steep and juggy warm-up at the far left end of the cave. Starts halfway across the approach traverse. Up through orange jugs and then grey cracked face. Three rings and double ring lower off. Joe Morgan-Payler, Stephen Hawkshaw, Neil Monteith. 2.3.03

* Media Puzzle 16m 23

Starts at left end of cave at small rooflet. Good pump workout on nice orange rock. Out left across crux roof past two RB's then up scoops on jugs (2 RB's) to good rest. Step right (#1 cam optional) and thug through steep territory past RB to jugs and DRB lower-off. Neil Monteith, Joe Morgan-Payler & Jacqui

New routes recorded in the Grampians National Park, Victoria. Current to 12.04.2003



Sentinel Cave

1. Half Shark Half Man (17) 2. Media Puzzle (23) 3. Roof of Doom (22) 4. Army of Ants (26) 5. Stepping on Snakes (23) 6. Dwarf Pumper (20)
BELOW - Rohan Archibald on the first ascent of Army of Ants (26)



Middleton 5.11.2002

Roof Of Doom 35m 22

A novelty route across a big roof. Originally attempted on trad - but after Neil pulled a huge block off the lip and whipped upside down it was decided to bolt it. Climb to first bolt on Stepping On Snakes, traverse left across Army Of Ants to big ledge. Walk left across this to FH and keep going across line (big cams) to roof-flake (FH). Out impressive 3m roof and up steep arête past RB to lower off bolts. Neil Monteith, Jaqui Middleton, Joe Morgan-Payler. 2.3.03

* Army Of Ants 15m 26

Tough sport route. Don't wear slip-ons unless you're OK with losing a shoe mid-route! Starts just right of small arete. Thin reachy face to start precedes big dynamic moves up steep wall and finish via big scoopy roof. One FH and 4 RB's. Lower off chain. Rohan Archibald, Neil Monteith, Jacqui Middleton. 2.3.03

** Stepping on Snakes 14m 23

The second route on the right side of the cave. Mantle onto slab then up very steep horizontals to final roof dyno. Five FH's and double RB lower off. Neil Monteith 16.11.2002

Dwarf Pumper 8m 20

Far right side of cave. A Nowra style pumpfest with a tricky crux. Two RB's up steep orange wall. RB lower off at top. Neil Monteith and Joe Morgan-Payler 3.11.2002

Sub area: Sentinel Wall

On the other side of the access gully is a rock buttress. About 100m left and slightly uphill from the cave is this orange wall with large horizontal pockets. Scramble onto large ledge from the left side to belay.

Fot as Muck 20m 17

Starts on the left side of the wall just right of grey roofs. Up slightly overhung wall on big incuts and lots of cam placements to juggy finish. Joe Morgan-Payler 16.11.2002

Sunraysia 20m 20

Starts about 4m right of Fot as Muck. Long reaches and a scary runout in the first ten metres. At the horizontal jam crack traverse slightly left to finish up Fot as Muck. Neil Monteith & Joe Morgan-Payler 16.11.2002

GREY AND GREEN WALLS [p.190 NG/BA, p.28 NGU/BA, p.37 MSA/KL]

Green Rope Berets 30m 17

Scramble up to the top of ramp as for *Threadneedle*. Climb direct up orange-brown streak in the steep wall between *Sluice* and *Threadneedle*. Pat Ford, Keith Lockwood. 9.10.00

CLICKE WALL [p.179 NG/BA, p.25 NGU/BA p.23 MSA/KL]

Recently in Argus the climbs *Dys Funk Shin*, *Clinophobia* and *Star Jumps Aren't Dancing* are described as being left of *Juras-*

sic Park on Clique Wall. Two of the climbs refer to traversing to rap anchors above *Benn Gunn*. *Jurassic Park* is on "Clicke Wall", derived from the original climb "Clicke Crack" described in the Gledhill's Northern Grampians guide. Given the spelling errors in that guide, it is likely that the original name of climb was *Cliche Crack* (another theory was *Clique Crack*, BA). The climb *Benn Gunn* is on "Epsilon Wall", on a totally separate section of cliff and there are rappel anchors above it that I am aware of; there is an anchor above *Iron in the Soul* on "Epsilon Wall". The rappel anchors on "Clicke Wall" are above *Slave Driver Saliva*. Regards, Kieran Loughran

Dys funk shin 25m 21

Start 5m left of *Jurassic Park* at RB, follow faint grey water streak past a second RB. Stay on the water streak the whole way, which turns black near the top. Ramon Francis, Joseph O'Connell. February 2001

Star Jumps Aren't Dancing 30m 23

Start 8m left of *Dys Funk Shin*. Up to first RB, on to 'slot', Cams, up to #3 RP placement which protects the move before the next RB. Straight up to finish at ledge directly above first RB. Either traverse off right towards rap anchors or finish straight up short headwall. 2 RBs. Ramon Francis, Brendon Abernethy, Joseph O'Connell. 13.10.01

Clinophobia 30m 22

Start 11m left of *Dys Funk Shin*. Easily up to first RB then to second RB heading straight up, following line of least resistance, finishing directly above first RB at ledge. Traverse off right towards rap anchors or finish straight up short headwall. 2 RBs. Ramon Francis, Dale Rankin, Joseph O'Connell. 12.10.01

TAIPAN WALL – THE PLAZA STRIP [new area]

On small cliff on far right edge of Taipan Wall. Walk past Lower Taipan Wall on tourist track, continue up slab then follow track as it hooks 180' back left and heads towards Mt Staplyton. When the track turns right, bush bash in for 50m to cliff. Alt access to walk directly right of Spurt Wall to the Sheeps bouldering cave. Another 50m right and above is the crag.

Foot-Spa 15m 19

20m left of *Bass Rush* on short grey face. Climb the blank face on horizontals (small SLCD), then finish up juggy crack. Nick McKinnon, Adam Demmert & Neil Monteith 23.9.2000

* Bass Rush 15m 23

Steep start up wall with big moves leads to thin face. 4 ringbolts and double RB anchor. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon 3.9.2000

Pentridge Smack Delivery 13m 24

Arete 3m right of *Bass Rush*. Boulder problem rounded arete past 2 rings leads to easy naturally protected slab. Reachy crux. Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith & Adam Demmert 23.9.2000

Evil Elf 20m 17

Thin crack splitting wall above easy layback crack 10m right of *Pentridge Smack Delivery*. After reaching big break at 15m keep

climbing upwards to belay on large ledge. Andy Hein (US), Neil Monteith 03.12.2000

*** The Finisher 15m 19**

2m right of *Evil Elf*. Climbs slab then crack on left side of mossy overhung orange prow. Despite appearances this route is clean, has huge jugs and good gear. Belay in cave and rap off Technorganica's anchors. Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith 03.12.2000

**** Technorganica 18m 23**

10m right of easy layback. Sustained and thin climbing up orange wall. Four RB's and some small/medium wires for crux. Rap off ring and chain. Neil Monteith, Andy Hein & Nick McKinnon 03.12.2000

HOLLOW MOUNTAIN AREA

GUN BUTTRESS AREA [p.165 NG/BA, p.23 NGA/BA]

The following two routes are additions to previous climbs located in the small well-sheltered alcove 50m right of Gun Buttress.

Bolt Action Directe 10m 26

The original line (24) traversed left and then back right, avoiding the dyno. The direct version powers straight up past 3 FHs. Brain Grey, Steve Chapman. June 2002

Calvinist Klein 12m 20

A bit contrived. Grade may vary according to exact line taken. Start 1m right of *Bolt Action Directe* at thin right-leading crack. At 4m step left past bush into left-leading crack. Steve Chapman, Ross Timms. June 2002

AMNESTY WALL [p.168 NG/BA, p.23 NGU/BA]

*** Sting Like A Bee 25m 24**

Line of ringbolts up groove and face 5m left of *Chinese Water Torture* to DRB lower-off. David Isaacs, Matt Brooks. November 2000

**** The Tyrants Grasp 22m 22**

Pockets and heucos. The line of RB's immediately left of *Chinese Water Torture* to lower-off. David Isaacs, Matt Brooks. November 2000

United Nations 25m 31

Very hard rinbolted face left of Amnesty. Matt Brooks 2001

Freedom Fighter 25m 27/28

Right leading line of bolts right of Amnesty and finishes up steep orange wall at end. Matt Brooks 2001

Unnamed 25m 21/23

Slabby arete with LOTS of bolts right of Freedom Fighter. Half-way chain is grade 17. Continuation of upper pillar is harder. Left arete 23 and right arete 21. Matt Brooks 2001

WHITE WALL [p.160 NG/BA, p.20 NGU/BA]

Venice 50m 14

Great central line up wall. Looks much harder than it is, though grade could be suspect - Nod led it in sandshoes because he forgot his climbing shoes! 1. 12m Right-facing corner at left end of *Wire Guided* slab. First move off the deck is hardest. At top of corner a short chimney leads to a ledge. 2. 38m Stand on rocking boulder and jump for a jug just left of the water channel splitting White Wall. Pull onto wall and follow the channel all the way - sometimes on the left, sometimes on the right and sometimes in the middle. Take slings for pro. Keith Lockwood, Noel Whiteside. 7.10.01

NB: Pete Canning and the Lockwood family did *Bay Of Pigs* the day before the above ascent and discovered *Young And Cunning* is the same climb except more wandery. *Young And Cunning* should be either scrapped or described as an indirect variant on *Bay Of Pigs*. And *Young And Cunning* would have horrendous rope-drag.

First ascent of *Hump The Bluey* (Argus August 2001) should be 3.6.01.

Sunset Strip 20m 14

From the start of *Sunset Boulevard*, walk right, along ledge for 9m to belay below first break in overhang. Up to overhang, swing energetically out left and straight up smooth grey wall above. Noel Whiteside, Keith Lockwood, Kieran Loughran. 27.10.01

Royal Parade 20m 14

The next break to the right of *Sunset Strip*. Up to overhang, pull over, into little right-facing corner. Step left at next bulge and up grey wall. Keith Lockwood, Noel Whiteside, Kieran Loughran. 27.10.01

CUT LUNCH WALLS [p.161 NG/BA, p.20 NGA/BA]

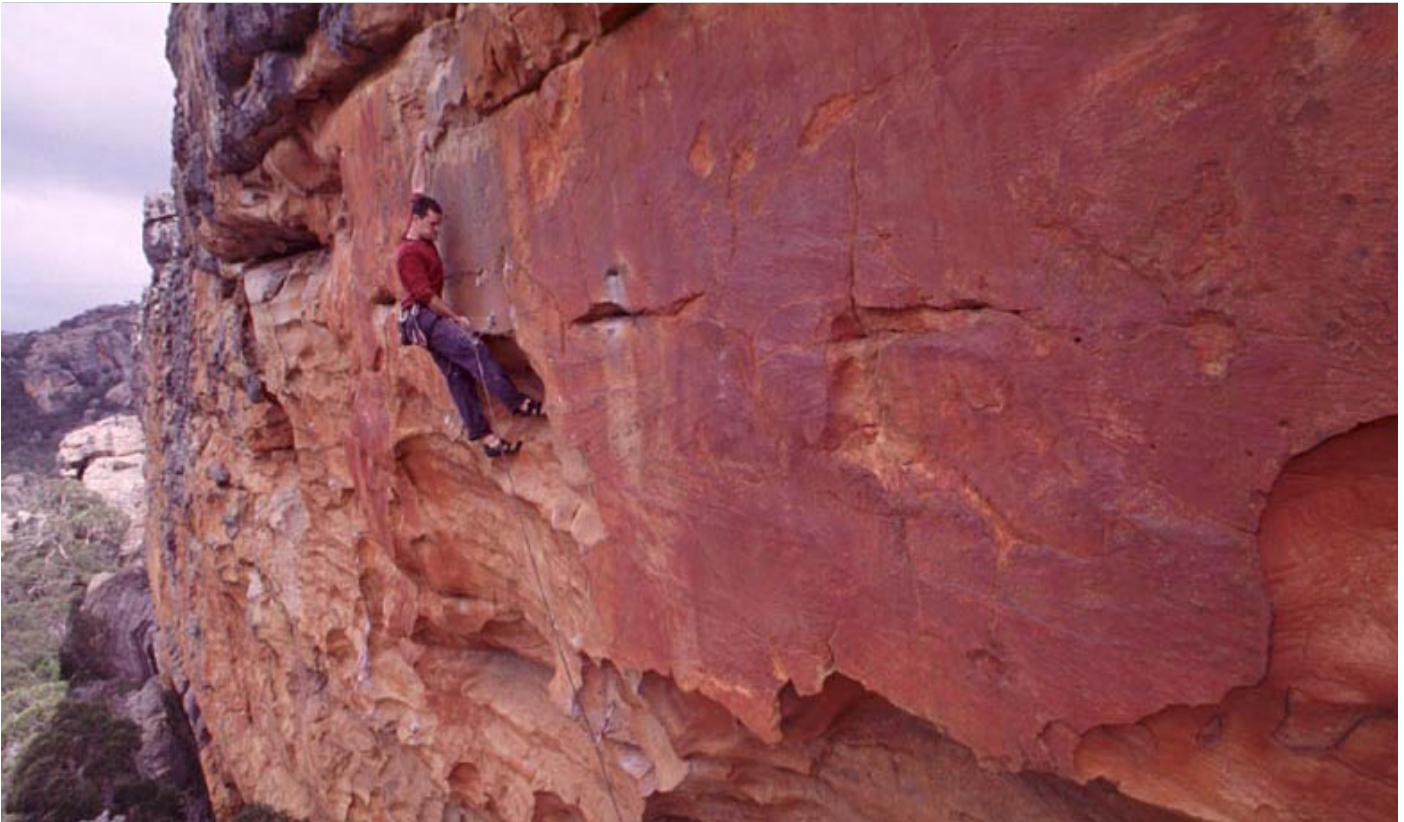
Sub Area: Upper Cut Lunch Walls

This obvious orange scooped wall is located directly above the steep arête route *Salad Abuse*. From what I can work out this seems to be a repeat of the first pitch of *Romeo Is Bleeding*. Another line recorded on the upper wall, *Lucky Jesus Houdini Rex*, also appears to be a repeat of the second pitch of *Romeo Is Bleeding*. This is our new stuff, which hopefully doesn't step on any of the other recorded routes. Online guide with photo topos is located at http://www.mrppp.com.au/nhblguides/cutlunch/cutlunch_index.html

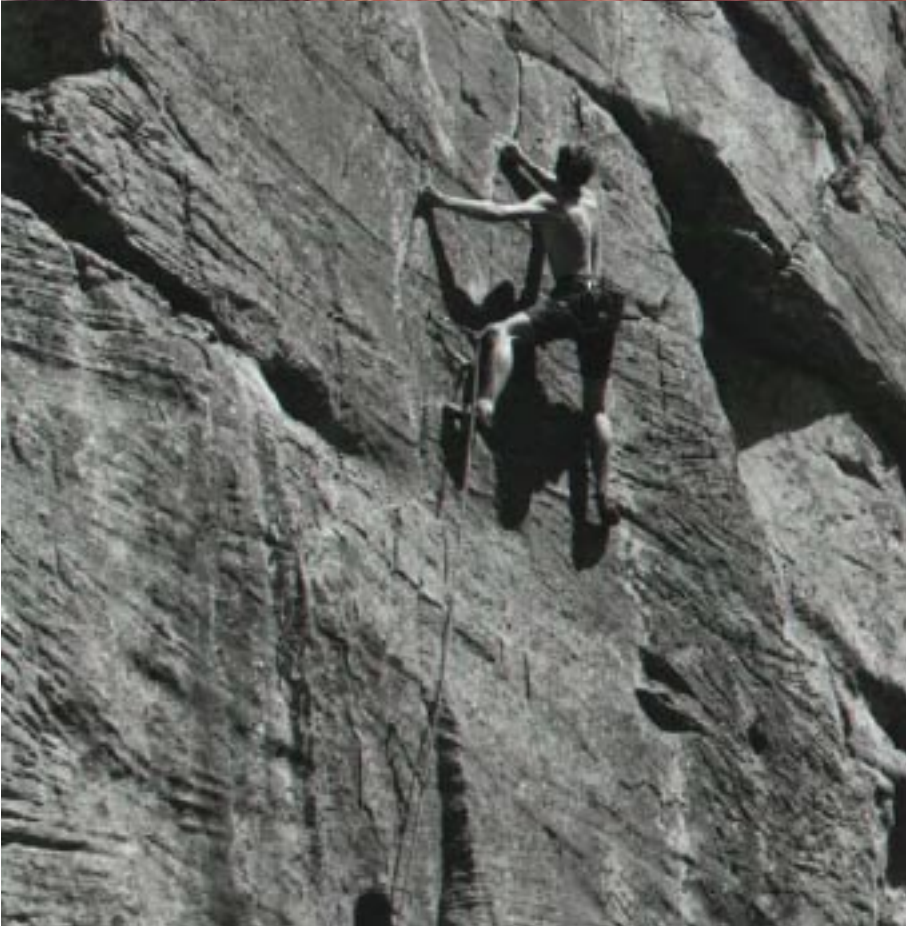
*** Rairdancer 20m 21**

One RB and four FHs up wall left of arête route *Salad Abuse*. Clip rusty carrot bolt to start, swing left on flake then up very juggy wall, which thins, to a big crux move. At the top of the pillar head right to double ring anchor. Destined to be a sport trade route. Marcel Geelen, Jacquie Lee, Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 10.11.01

New routes recorded in the Grampians National Park, Victoria. Current to 12.04.2003



ABOVE
Nick Mckinnon on first ascent of The Big Payback
(25), Cut Lunch Walls. Photo Neil Monteith



LEFT
Andy Hien attempts the second ascent of Tech-
norganica (23), Plaza Strip. Photo Neil Monteith

American Anthrax Attack 24m 21

Furthest bolted route on the left. A wandering wall climb with several hard sections and some loose rock between the third and fourth FH. At the fifth FH above the roof head right to finish at *Twisted Horizons* DRB anchor. Mid range cams and some medium wires are required. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 21.10.01

*** Twisted Horizons 20m 21**

Starts just left of small gumtree on ledge about 2m right of *American Anthrax Attack*. Boulder off ground then up past 2 FHs to stance. Head slightly left up small ledges to third FH. Juggy moves up scoop gains the mushroom jug and a stance under a roof. Out through the roof past a FH and onwards up steep headwall past a further FH to top and DRB anchor. Bring a range of mid sized cams to supplement the bolts. Neil Monteith, Marcel Geelen. 23.9.01

**** Wired 20m 22**

First line of rings on the left of the upper wall about 5m right of *Twisted Horizons*. Superb climbing on perfect rock which is slightly spoilt by the ledge midway up. Easily to first RB then tough moves through bulge and leftwards on slopers to cave. After resting here head out right on flakes to pockets and join up with *Tender Hooks* after the fourth RB. Twin RB lower-off. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 10.11.01

*** Tender Hooks 18m 24**

Start 7m right of *Twisted Horizons*. Climb past four ringbolts up balancy overhung flake to conclusion up juggy roof and headwall past another two ringbolts. Lower off twin rings. Neil Monteith. 7.10.01

**** The Big Payback 17m 25**

Start 7m right of *Tender Hooks* at little alcove on far right side of ledge. Boulder start up flakes then up into big scoop. Crux full stretch from undercling to gain flat-topped hold. Rest in the cool cave then out the overhung right side with difficulty to twin bolt lower off. Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith. 21.10.01

Glue Pot Drive 9m 18

Thin face with three rings on outer facing side of chasm down and to the right of *The Big Payback*. Bridging against the back wall up high is to be avoided. A good route for a belay slave. Best way to approach is to solo the first half of the access for the Upper Cliff. Neil Monteith. Solo. 6.11.01

Sub Area: Lower Cut Lunch Walls

Scrape on Through the Underside 28m 22

More like Lindorff grade 20! Starting as for *The Snatch*, but climb straight up to the obvious roof crack. Grab the perfect thread hold and thrash leftwards using every traditional trick in the book to gain the lip. Up the juggy offwidth to ledge and finish up left wall. Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith. 22.10.01

Three Course Meal 35m 19

A good route up a major water streak. Starts 7m right of *The Snatch* below broken easy corner. Entrée - scramble up easy

rock to ledge. Main - step left and up steep bulging wall on letterbox pockets with a hard crank to gain small ledge. Dessert - finish up water worn juggy streak which has a thin slab move near the end. Rap off bollard or walk off down to the Upper Cut Lunch Walls rap anchor. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 22.10.01

Nick McKinnon climbed *The Snatch* (23) on Cut Lunch Walls in the Northern Gramps. Both the Northern Grampians guide and the Mentz/Tempest Grampians Select state the climb can finish right or left. He found that finishing left was quite desperate with no gear (and few holds!) for at least 7m. A fall would result in a nasty pendulum back into the corner. A more sane description would be : "From top of corner, step right onto ledge and up." The climb however is fanatastic!

VAN DIEMANS LAND [p.22 NGU/BA]

**** Velvet Goldmine 29**

The arching line of ringbolts starting from the ledge above *Dope Man*. Scramble up from *Body Count*. Back clean. Matt Brooks. June 2000

BOWLER BOULDER [p.116 NG/BA, p.12 NGU/BA]

*** Slit Your Throat 15m 27**

This one keeps getting written up as not climbed. Bolted circa October 1992, climbed January 1993. Line of FHs up the face right of *Fear Of Music*, move right on break and up face after bottom wall and FHs. Hard thin face moves. Matt Brooks, Daniel Brooks. January 1993

ISKRA CRAG [p.105 NG/BA, p.11 NGA/BA]

Directly behind the left end of Sunstroke Cliff is a small square cut wall with a horizontal break running most of its length at above half height. There is an obvious line in the centre of this wall leading to a left facing groove above the break which goes at about grade 14. From the number of broken flakes and holds this line appears to have had a bit of traffic.

Grogard 10m 19

Starting about 1_m right of the above line, climb the face to the horizontal break. Pull through the overhang and into the steep crack-line. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 25.5.02

If you continue walking past the right-hand end of Sunstroke Cliff you come to another wall, its most prominent feature being a well-defined left-facing groove. This cliff is behind the right-hand end of Shadow Buttress.

Cantinflas 25m 16

Worthwhile climbing up slabby wall, some 4m left of the groove. Moving in from right, gain a ledge, then steeply up thin cracks. Climb the final bulge on less than jugs. Jeremy Maddox, Chris Armstrong, Philip Armstrong. 25.5.02

ASSES EARS AREA

AE/GD – The Asses Ear Area by Glen Donohue (page #'s in this guide restart for each crag)

CHICKEN BOULDER [p.10 AE/GD]

Large overhung boulder about 50m downhill from *Tryptych*.

Chicken Run 20m 11

On the far left side of *The Pecking Order* boulder. An easy leftwards hand traverse along flake leads to juggy vertical wall. Neil Monteith (solo) 27.11.2000

* Rings Around 13m 21

Same start as *The Pecking Order* but head left up overhung orange flakes past 4 rings to twin rings. Neil Monteith & Jono Schmidt 6.1.2001

Tarred and Feathered 12m 24

Three ringbolts blasting up orange overhung wall to the left of *The Pecking Order*. Shares first bolt of *Rings Around*. The route features long moves between good holds and finishes at twin rings. FFA Neil Monteith 28.4.2001

DUCK BOULDER [new area]

Two boulders downhill from the Chicken Boulder.

Gently 7m 13

Two boulders down hill from *The Pecking Order* is another boulder. This climbs the highest, slabby west face with limited protection. FSA Neil Monteith 27.11.2000

TURKEY BOULDER [new area]

This is the large boulder directly behind the boulder with *The Pecking Order* on it, about 50m downhill from the *Triptych* pinnacle.

Cold Turkey 7m 21

Thin, right leading weakness on backside of boulder behind *The Pecking Order*. Start at tree growing at base. FFA Nick McKinnon & Neil Monteith 27.01.2001

Gobbler 8m 21

Same start off tree as *Cold Turkey* but instead fire straight up flakes and jugs on perfect marbled rock. FFA Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon & Andrew Thompson (IRE) 27.01.2001

MAIN CLIFF [p.2 AE/GD]

* Valencia 17m 23

Start as for *Golden Delicious* then traverse directly right to FH (stickclip recommended). Fingery moves (BR) lead to thin crux and horizontal. Through small bulge and up on spaced holds to small ledge and U-bolt anchor. Takes plenty of medium wires. A loose second pitch is possible up 20m grade 15 wall above. Neil Monteith 28.4.2001

Harvey Wallbanger 16m 22

Starts about 6m right of *Golden Delicious*. A bouldery thin start past a BR gains a short rounded crack. From above this the climbing eases and heads slightly left to finish at U-bolt anchor (as for *Valencia*).

Neil Monteith & Marcel Geelen 28.7.2001

SCHROEDERS CLIFF [p.12 AE/GD]

* Tokinese 45m 22

Start as for *The Green Man*, about 5m right of *Battered Flake*. Up easy crack for 5m then traverse left across break to flake in steepness above. Up flake on big jugs (FH), traverse right (crux) to hard vertical transition move and then into good crack. When the angle gets easier step left on the arete and up this juggy wall to the BF anchor.

Neil Monteith & Marcel Geelen 28.7.2001

Battered Flake 35m 21

A good central line on the main face which suffers from some loose rock. Approach the orange right facing corner by climbing in from the left. Up the corner (crux), with some small and hard to place gear – bring RP's. From under the roof, traverse right a few metres then up the flake crack above on good jugs. Rap rings are located on the belay ledge.

Neil Monteith & Jono Schimdt 27.05.2001

* Memento 25m 23

Blasts up the prominent orange flakes and groove in the center of the main face five metres left of BF. Up to shallow right facing flake, then direct up past two FH's. Step left after 2nd bolt to gain black groove and up. Run up final slab to rap rings. Loses a star because of bad natural pro.

Nick McKinnon & Jono Schimdt, 27.5.2001

** Felix 25m 23

Awesome thin climbing on grit-like rock. Blank looking wall with five FH's just left of *Memento*. Boulder problem start, middle and end with the occasional good hold thrown in to ward off the pump. At small ledge boulder through rooflet and slab easily up to twin rings.

Neil Monteith 1.7.2001

** Fat Cat 25m 20

The best of a great trio. Ignore the FH and climb pocketed right side of chimney (wires) then traverse right to BR. Up superb textured slab past two more BR's to break (medium SLCD). Finish easily up slab to twin rings high on ledge.

Neil Monteith, Marcel Geelen & Jono Schimdt 30.6.2001

* Fat Cat Direct 25m 24

The desperate crank past the FH steps the grade up quite considerably.

Marcel Geelen, Neil Monteith 28.7.2001

Prison Camp 40m 16

Around the left side of the buttress left of *Woof*. Start just right of chimney gully. Can be done in one pitch with twin ropes -

watch out for rope drag.

(1) 25m 16 Crack through blocks to bulge, a step right avoids difficulties.

Go up short flake and follow huge jugs on right to a small ledge with a bush.

(2) 15m 16 Step left and directly up face veering right at the top to exit onto a small ledge, continue straight up on jugs. Take slings. To reach abseil chains above BF crawl along ledges on the right.

Nick McKinnon. Marcel Geelen (alt) 27.5.2001

Siamese Corner 35m 19

Orange corner with blocky roof about 6m left of *Prison Camp*.

1) 25m 19 Up corner, hand traverse left onto small stance then step back right and through juggy roof crack to small ledge. Be careful of some loose looking blocks in the roof crack.

2) 10m 16 Bulging crack on the right wall above belay ledge. At first opportunity traverse right onto small ledge and excellent big thread anchor around bollard. Rap from this or scramble off right along ledges to reach *Battered Flakes* anchor.

Neil Monteith & Jono Schmidt 1.7.2001

* Cheshire 25m 20

Start about 60m left of SC at rock cairn. The route follows a left trending line then climbs an overhung corner. A boulder problem start gets the blood flowing for the pump overhung middle section which is protected by excellent wires. Natural pro belay on small ledge. Rap off slings around small bollard.

Neil Monteith & Jono Schimdt 30.6.2001

THE SECRET CLIFF [p.1 AE/GD]

Strangler 20m 21

Start 2m right of *Summer Rain* at small corner. Up this for a few metres to ledge. Place small TCU's in horizontal crack under bulge then traverse right (crux) onto face. Up bulge above to easier ground and crack finish.

Neil Monteith 29.4.2001

BRIM SPRINGS [p.9 AE/GD]

Grabben Gully Pie

The start in the current guide is wrong. Left of *Pigeon Pie* is an easy wall that starts 15m left of *Pigeon Pie*, it has two short corners towards its left hand end. The climb starts right of these corners and left of the block that has fallen from the cliff (NOT from the block).

Pork Pie 30m 9

Put up by a porculent pair. Starts at the right hand end of the fallen block mentioned above. Onto the block, step right then up and left to easing ground. Doodle to top. Descent is possible (but not pleasant) down the gully further east (right, facing out). Tony Brotherton, Bill Andrews. 28.12.00

Houdini Semi-Direct Finish 6m 17

An important route! (Not.) Rather pleasant, worth remembering if there's a group on Recessed Wall. Do the first move out

from under the roof on the crux hand traverse of Houdini, then mantle. Staying 1.5m right of the (as yet unclimbed) orange corner, follow thin crimps up wall past good wire them more easily to sloping break. Step right to rejoin original for final bulge. FRA Will Monks, N Cotton. 17.11.01

MOUNT DIFFICULT RANGE

MDR/JM – The Mount Difficult Range by James McIntosh & Bill Andrews

THE ROCKWALL [p.76 MDR/JM, p.47 NG/BA, p.4 NGA/BA]

A Strayed Black Cat 25m 15

Start as for *Black Feral Cat Goes Underground*. Stay on the left wall, through the orange scoop and step left around overhang. Pete Holmes, Christian Doblin. 11.3.01

MOUNT DIFFICULT [p.50 MDR/JM]

Sweet Thing 45m 14

Climbs fragile face between *Beeline* and *Bumble Variant*. Climb wall almost anywhere until roof which is taken at the obvious notch. Continue directly past blank bit to a good ledge. Abseil off horn. (We left a sling, it may still be there.)

James Falla, Debbie Sweet, Jon Bassindale. December 1999

** He Who Walks Through Shallow Water 20m 21

This climb is a dedication to Wade Stevens who has been a close friend of mine for the last 3 years. Starts 150m left of *A Hard Day's Night* at attractive looking orange/black wall above a white arrow on the Mount Difficult walking track. Short corner leads to steep moves (2FH, #1 cam) past bulge to sustained face moves on good holds to DBB (ring lower off) at large ledge. Huge roof above awaits ascent by strong team with Hilti. Joe Goding. September 2001

BRIGGS BLUFF [p.100 MDR/JM, p.44 NG/BA]

** Bachelor Of Circus Arts 35m 23

100m left of *Marco Polo*. Approach by scrambling up and left. The only good line amongst piles of chossy overhung red caves on the left side of Briggs Bluff. Thin, sustained finger crack which turns to small right-facing corner at ten metres. After awkward off-finger jams turn the small triangular roof on the right side and head easily left to small tree. Up easy chimney above for ten metres to ledge and rap tree. Gareth Llewelin, James McIntosh, Neil Monteith. 21.4.02

Redfern Estate 95m 15

Reasonable climbing but the rock is only fair. Start 120m left of *Silk Road*, and 10m right of a cave. (This is about 50m left of where the cliff direction turns from NW facing to NE facing). Look for a small grey corner that starts about 20m above the ground, and a small cairn. 1. 35m Up wall for 18m then move left to below corner. Up corner to large ledge. 2. 30m Up left to left end of large roof. Traverse left along horizontal chimney

New routes recorded in the Grampians National Park, Victoria. Current to 12.04.2003



ABOVE
Gareth Llewellyn on the first ascent of Bachelor Of Circus Arts (23), Briggs Bluff . Photo Neil Monteith



LEFT
Neil Monteith on the first ascent of Tokenise (22), Schroeders Cliff. Photo Nick McKinnon

and ledge to a small chimney. Up chimney. 3. 30m Up crack system through bulge then easily to top. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh. (alt) May 2001

Tripitaka 85m 20

Excellent climbing, with a thrilling roof on the third pitch. The poor rock on the start could be avoided by traversing in from the cave. Start 60m left of the above route, and 15m right of a huge cave. Look for small twin recessed corners starting at 15m, and a cairn. 1. 35m Up seam to break, move right, then up the left hand corner. 2. 20m The line above the tree. Belay under the big roof. 3. 30m (crux) Through the roof then up easily. James McIntosh, Glen Donohue. (alt) 5.5.01

Ledcourt 95m 16

Very good face climbing, but a bit run-out on the second pitch. Take lots of small and medium cams. Start 60m left of the above route, just left of the next cave down left of the huge cave referred to above. (Note that *Marco Polo* is about 30m further left). 1. 45m Step left onto juggy rib, then up the line on the left side of the steep face above the cave, belay at tree. 2. 35m Straight up black wall, then take the flake through the pale bulge. Wander up the wall above (run-out, there are some runners up left). 3. 15m Boulder through the roof, then move right and finish about 2m left of the corner. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh. (alt) 6.5.01

Samarkand 20m 18

About 30m down right of *Silk Road* is a short corner with FH. Up past FH (crux) to ledge, then straight up middle of wall to DBB/rap station. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. 26.9.01

Samarkand Variant 16

From ledge above crux, follow curved corner on left. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. 27.9.01

Slik Road 35m 21

Start as for *Silk Road*. Take a couple of cams around #1.5 - #2 for horizontal break between 3rd and 4th FH. Up *Silk Road* a few metres, then traverse left along break past 2FH. At 2nd FH, head straight up past another 3FH to DBB/rap station. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. 27.9.01

The Way Of All Flesh 100m 24

Left of *Tripitaka* is an enormous wind eroded cave. Start at the left toe of this cave. 1. 18m Up seam/crack (crux) to right-leading roof flake. Follow this to an awkward exit on to small stance. 2. 27m (12) Up easily above, tending slightly right, to belay from gum tree on big ledge. 3. 40m (14) Up short right leading ramp, then atmospherically back left along cramped ledge until possible to step on to slab above. Up this (spaced protection) to belay off large flat boulder on big scrubby ledge. 4. 15m (18) Boulder problem start through overhang then step up left around roof and follow horizontal break in side wall of roof out right to prow (enjoyably exposed), and so to summit. Kevin Lindorff, David Brereton. (alts) 28.9.01

CENTURION WALLS [p.104 MDR/JM]

**** Compressor Route 23m 27**

Starts as for *Anti-Christ Super Star* but takes a direct finish up the head-wall. Climb *Anti-Christ Super Star* to rest at half height. Move up and left to big pocket. Crimping finish straight up to chains. 9 RBs and DBB lower off. Nick McKinnon. 17.8.02

*** Anti-Christ Superstar 25m 25/26**

Start 10m right of *Killer Wolf* below large scoop in rock. Up broken wall past BR to scoop. Follow five rings left across steep wall (crux) to big break. Shuffle right along this for a few moves (2 rings) to no hands rest in slot. Straight up a few moves to twin pocket jugs then right (ignore high ring) to break and good cam slot. Up again on pockets to jugs and pumpy conclusion past last ring to twin ring lower off. Extend runners to avoid rope drag. FFA Neil Monteith & Nick McKinnon 2.9.2001

**** Stone Temptress 20m 22**

Start up *Kublai Khan* for four metres then begin the never ending overhung hand-traverse right on superb stone to end at *Psychotic Episode's* ring bolts. Bring every cam you own up to size 4, and lots of slings. Add a few grades if you pump out easily! . FFA Neil Monteith 05.11.2000

***** Psychotic Episode 15m 26**

10m right of *Kublai Khan*. The best line of the cliff. Flakes leading up brilliant overhung orange buttress. Bring some medium cams to protect the flakes. Four rings leads to double ring lower-off. FFA Nick McKinnon 29.07.2000

Desert Crack 20m A2

Directly above *Kublai Kahn* is a large overhung amphitheater (right of route *Centurion*). On the far right side of the chossy cave is a very obvious overhanging finger crack similar in style to an Indian Creek line. Aid this using cams to size #1 and some birdbeaks for the top. Might go free at grade 25? Rap off sling. FA Neil Monteith (solo) 26.11.2000

SPLIT PINNACLE [p.23 MDR/JM, p.43 NG/BA]

Lou-Ellen the Great 20m 15

Walk left for 40m below the broken crag which continues from the left edge of the main pinnacle, to a right-facing corner with large boulder at base, just right of prominent overhangs. From the top of boulder get into corner and climb it. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 7.6.02

WILDEBEAST [Argus 2001]

In the June Argus you printed details of Wildebeest, a new area in the Mount Difficult Range. In the August Argus a route was published on "Wildebeest Wall". The area is called Wildebeest. I know that you published what was sent. It is up to me to talk to Norm and Noddy but the area is Wildebeest, no walls, no crags. I like the name. The name is evocative. It's a wild area at the top of the range: it deserves a good name.

Jungle Drums Talk 30m 20

This is the major Blimp-like corner at the upper rim of the valley,

about 100m south of the creek. Norm Booth, Keith Lockwood. 10.7.01

A deceptively steep and quite compact wall. Access: From the track junction above Wildebeest, follow the main track northwest for 500m to an orange stone fireplace. Scrub bash north down into a gully then down the gully to the top of the cliff (10 minutes from track). The climbing is on the portion of the cliff to your right (facing out), and the best descent is at the far end. Cliff faces northwest GR 304037

Détente 18m 19

Start 5m right of the cave nearest the left end of the cliff (cairn). Up face for 12m to where it blanks out. Move left past loose looking flake, then up seam. Chris Baxter, James McIntosh. 10.2.02

Gossip Column 18m 19

About 150m right of *Détente* and just right of a chimney corner is a thin left-facing dihedral corner. Up this and straight through the bulge. James McIntosh, Chris Baxter. (alt) 10.2.02 (Done with a rest and a leader change below the bulge.)

THE PLANTATION CLIFF

A Perfect Day To Drop the Bomb 50m 18

A bit indirect but links some interesting climbing. About 40m right of the Journalistic Licence slab is an easy angled recessed bay with orange and black striped rock on the left wall and a steep head wall. 1. 30m (crux) Up the easy corner forming the left edge of the bay for about 15m until 2m below the horizontal break and orange bulge in the corner. Step out left and up the wall to below the large chimney/groove in the roof. Traverse right, under this, to the arête, up this to the bushy ledge. Move the belay about 15m right along the bushy ledge. 2. 20m The crack line through the centre of the steep orange and black striped rock then left to large tree (abseil). Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox (alt). 27.10.02

HARDENBERGIA ROCKS

Suspect Device 18m 18/19

More nice face climbing. The upper half is a bit hard to protect. Takes the left side of the wall around left of Stiff Little Fingers starting behind the prominent small pinnacle left of Stiff Little Fingers. Follow the series of cracks about 2m right of the arête, then the scooped face above and slightly left (a #1 Friend sized flexible cam is useful towards the top). Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 18.1.03

VICTORIA RANGE

VR/KL – The Victoria Range by Kieran Loughran
 SWGI/GT – South Western Grampians Interim Climbing Guide by Gordon Talbett & James McIntosh

GONDWANALAND [p.1 SWGI/GT]

* Up The Road 35m 18

Ninety degree sharp arête with clean wall on right side about 40m right of *Gibber*. A short corner-crack is climbed to a little ledge on the left, then launch up the pocketed arete with some fiddly pro. The final 10m is jug city. Small to medium gear and slings. Neil Monteith, Michael Boniwell. 26.1.03

** Face The Dissection 35m 23

Start at the base of ramp a little left of *Gibber*. Stem shallow corner to BR and pockets. Up past second BR and more pockets to horizontal line. Right leading flake passed 3 FHs gains face just left of arête. Up superb face with small wires and cams before arête can be gained. Finish up arête. Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith. 13.1.02

Rock Climb 60m 8

Easy angled black hand crack corner 50m left of *Gibber*. Second pitch climbs juggy face above. Not recommended. Gay Welders Union, January 2002

** Wild Iris 16m 18

Pocket pulling sport route on immaculate rock. Starts 50m left of *Gibber*. White pockets through bulge leads to spaced heucos on face. At third BR head right to BR then up juggy corner to rap chain. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 12.1.02

Wild Iris RHV 17m 21

At second BR traverse directly right on small pockets and little else. When your feet refuse to stay on, clip a BR then crank like crazy to gain monster pockets. Finish as for original line past last BR. Neil Monteith. 12.1.02
 Neil Monteith on Wild Iris (18)

Green Room 25m 19

Leftwards leading easy pocketed corner just left Wild Iris. At top of corner place wires in thin crack then swing out right desperately onto arete and easily up this to natural; belay stance. Another pitch above on super jugs leads to top and walk off. Needs a lower-off. Steve Holloway, Nina Cullen & Amanda Cole 26.1.2003

* Picking Plums 20m 19

Starts 30m left of *Wild Iris*. In the middle of the wall are several cracklines, this climbs the furthest right one, approx in the middle of the wall. Absorbing rounded holds and the steep angle keeps you guessing right until the end. The gear is great however and a chain on top makes decent easy. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 12.1.02

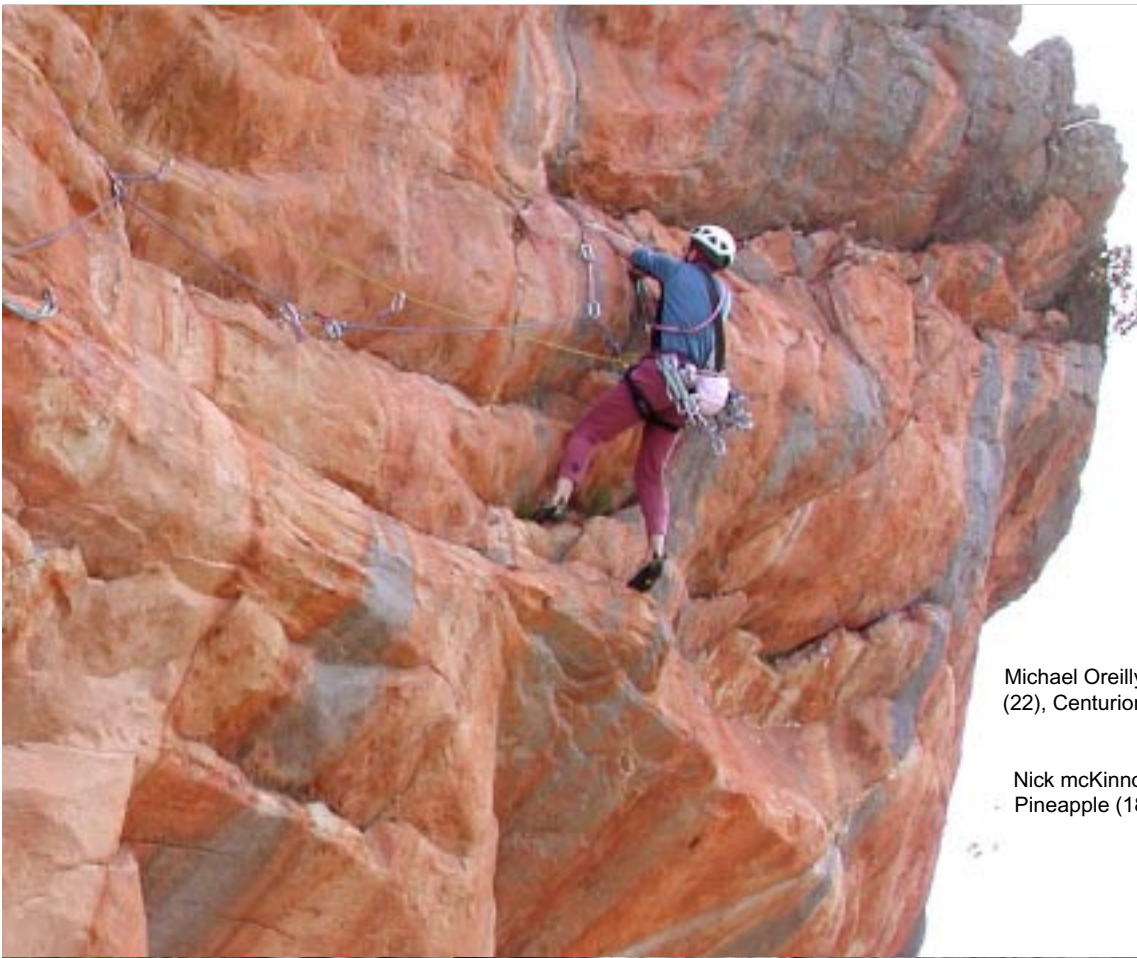
Pineapple 18m 18

Line 2m left of *Picking Plums*. Similar sustained climbing up rounded cracks, but the rock is a little less perfect. Bring plenty of big cams. Traverse off right to chain or belay from natural bollards at top. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 13.1.02

The Drifting 25m 15

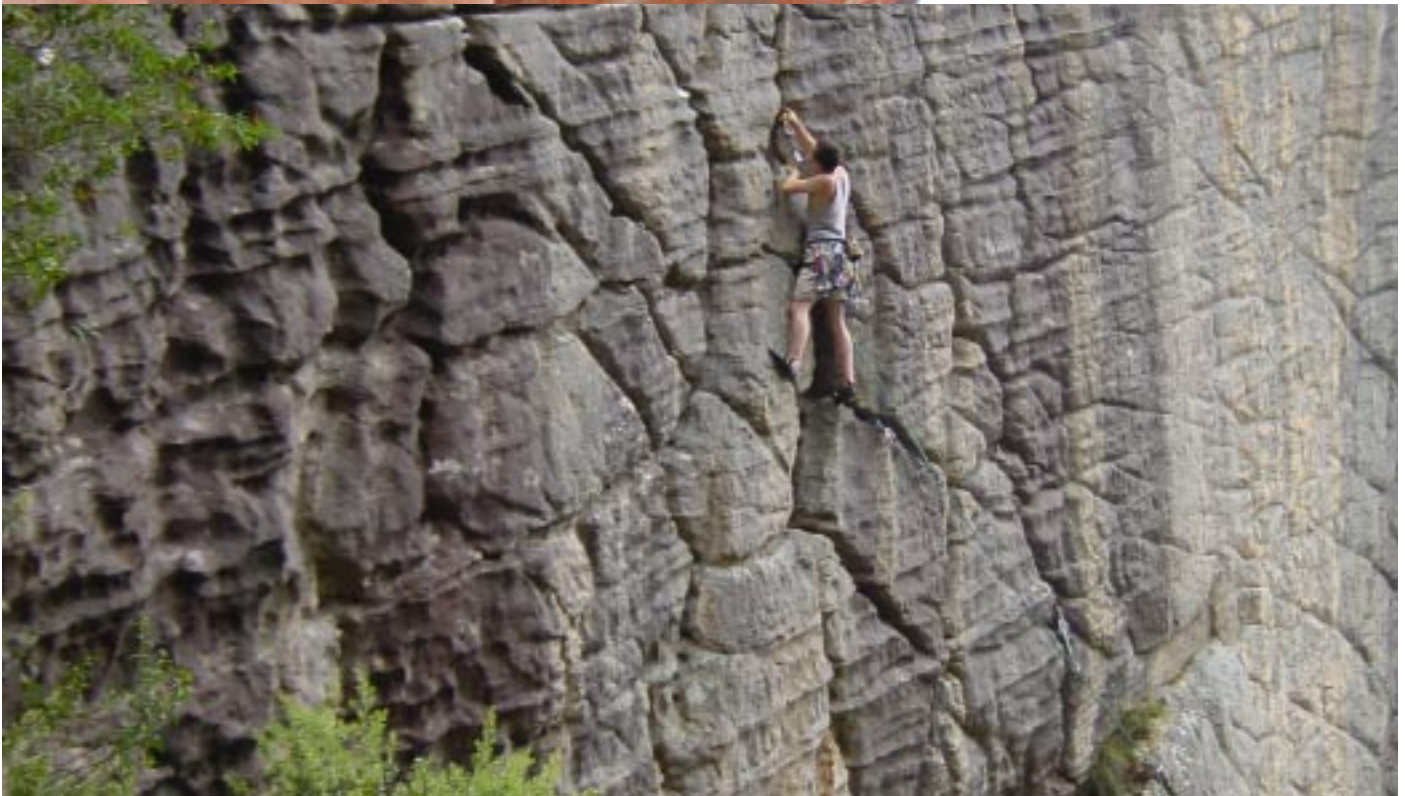
Start 3-4m right of arete about 20m uphill from Pineapple. UP for 4m, right a little, then pretty much straight up. Wall is deceptively steep with good holds and gear. Scramble up right (looking out)

New routes recorded in the Grampians National Park, Victoria. Current to 12.04.2003



LEFT
Michael Oreilly attempts Stone Temptress (22), Centurion Walls. Photo Neil Monteith

BELOW
Nick McKinnon on the second ascent of Pineapple (18), Gondwannaland. Photo Neil Monteith



to rap from sling around good bollard. Nina Cullen & Steve Holloway 26.01.2003

Online guide to Gondwanaland with photo topos can be found here http://www.mrppp.com.au/nhb/guides/gondwanaland/gondwana_guide.html

JUNGLE GYM [p.47 VR/KL]

Hang Me High 18m 23

Blunt orange arête with two FHs left of *The Bounty Hunter*. Bridge a few moves onto block then climb onto main wall. Clip FH and grunt through crux traverse right on small holds to gain good sidepull. Another hard move past a FH gains a perfect 'fishbowl' jug. Easy juggling leads to top. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 12.1.02

The Tour 20m 16

Black slab on right side of dark gully around left of *Hang Me High*. Delicately up incut pockets to high FH. Head for the small grey corner and then finish up out left on the grey slab. Small wires and cams required. Neil Monteith, Geoff Butcher, Marten Blumen. 9.12.01

* Dju Dju 15m 21

Nice thin grey face on block situated near top of Jungle Gym. Two FHs protect lower crimp moves then natural gear to finish. You might need some jungle juice for this one! Marcel Geelen, Geoff Butcher, Neil Monteith. 27.1.02

MOUNT FOX [p.51 VR/KL, p.9 SWGI/GT]

After reaching the end of the walk-in track to Mount Fox, you will find yourself at the base of the very popular, *Twentieth Century Fox*. To access the routes described below, head left, following the base of the cliff, and scurry over a couple of boulders along the way. After about 5 minutes, the cliff cuts in, prompting you to turn right. You will then find yourself standing in front of the wall featuring these two routes. The right-hand end of the wall sports an obvious right-curving crack line, which looks extremely hard and is as yet unclaimed (looks like it would go for no less than 26+). To the left of this line, *Hell Bent* awaits you; and further left again is *Burning Black Boys*. A brand new single-rope abseil station above *Burning Black Boys* services the block.

Hell Bent 25m 21,M2

Follow right arête of *Addicted to Placebos*' chimney (obvious hanging chimney capped by rooflet) to half height, before stepping into chimney. Move carefully right at top, then up overhanging crack (crux). Work it for a while, laugh hopelessly at your situation if you're short, then siege your way through it, exiting crack with difficulty. Step right onto easier ground, and up to belay. (FA used two points of aid in crux.) Take a # 2 and # 1 Camelot for the crux. Jacqui Middleton, David Ceber. 2.6.02

* Burning Black Boys 22m 21

Start as for *Fox Tail* (which starts 5m right of a wide corner on the north-facing yellow buttress), head right to kneebar rest

below steep bulge, through steep moves in nice arête next to crack. Up, tending slightly right to weakness, up cracks on right wall, then back left through weakness. Straight up to glue in DBB/(single rope) abseil station on large ledge 5m below top. Joe Goding, Sharyn George. 2.6.02

RED ROCK PINNACLE [p.60 VR/KL]

Womble 20m 13

Easy juggy face on wall opposite of *I Just Called To Say I Love You*. This summits the pillar next to the wall with *English Rose*. Gay Welders Union. January 2002

** Strike the First Blow 17m 25

On back side of wall left of *English Rose*. Starts from large suspended chockstone bridge. Three FHs up rounded rib leads to jug. Traverse right along break past wire and FH then head straight up (FH) to chain. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon, Marcel Geelen. 26.1.02

Wimbledon 40m 14

Directly opposite *Strike The First Blow* (back of main wall), is a juggy wall. Start a few metres right and climb the grey face which gets easier the higher you get. At the small red cave climb out the overhung right side and up easily to ledge. Gay Welders Union. September 2002

* Vertebrae 15m 20

Located on isolated pillar 50m south and slightly downhill from *English Rose*. The route climbs the 'backbone' arête of the uphill side of the pillar past three FHs and some small natural gear for the top. Rap off DRB. Neil Monteith. 1.9.02

* Conflict Of Interest 25m 21

Starts about 5m right of *Red Ragging* on south side of southern main pillar. Red scooped rock past a FH leads through small roof then onwards past seven ringbolts to DRB lower off. Thin sustained face climbing on nubbins are the main attraction. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 12.10.02

The Propaganda Machine 35m 19

Starts three metres left of Conflict of Interest on south face of southern pinnacle. Up and left on orange rock with no gear to left leading small crack through bulge at 5m. Stem through bulge and swing out left to meet up with *Red Ragging*. Follow it for a few metres then head diagonally right aiming for the prominent left leaning orange corner. Up corner using jugs on big hollow sounding block to finish with bouldery left traverse to ledge. FFA Neil Monteith & Rohan Archibald 23.3.2003

** Used Platypus Condom 15m 19

Steep pumpy jug hauling on orange rock. Located on upper wall deep inside chasm about 300m above *Strike The First Blow*. Two RBs to start then medium gear to DRB lower off. Neil Monteith, Dean Chamberlain. 12.10.02

I Just Called To Say I Love You 20m 18,M1

Starts 10m left of *Red Rock Arête*. Access from rear of pillar. Right leading ramp leads to bulge then left past protruding knob

and up watching for the perched block of doom. Leader slung knob for aid. Gay Welders Union. January 2002

* Fat Fingered Freak 20m 23

Located directly behind *English Rose* in shaded chasm. Pumpy and sustained. Steep short corner (ring) to ledge. Step right then up flake system past two rings and small gear to chain belay. Nick McKinnon, Neil Monteith. 27.1.02

* Variance 20m 24

Starts 5m right of *Fat Fingered Freak*, on the back side of the English Rose block. Stick clip ring from block. Jump for jug and mantle onto ledge. Clip BR and step right then trend back left along sloping orange edge (BR) to under cracked bulge. Pull through this strenuously, protected by wires, to jug at base of small corner. Clip BR; stem into corner for a few moves then reach out left to escape hold that leads to jugs and top. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 2.3.02

One Ring To Bind Them 15m 23

Great line but mediocre climbing. The overhung knifeblade arête about 5m right of *Variance*. Stickclip ringbolt for bouldery start then hang on for the ride up fragile sharp pockets and flakes past a BR and several small wires. Rap off sling on bollard. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 2.3.02

Hamstrung 30m 18

Directly left of *English Rose* is a gully. Left of this is an Arapiles style unclimbed overhung crack. Left of this is an easy angled left-facing orange corner. Up this to meet with top of pine tree. Peer around the corner to find horizontal rising crack with occasional tufts of grass. Traverse desperately along this with nigh-all footholds to end up perched on sharp rest flake. Finish up easy jugs to top. Neil Monteith, Nick McKinnon. 2.3.02
Sub area: Espanol Pinnacle

From *Strike the First Blow* walk north about 30m past large boulder. Head uphill for about 100m and locate large cleft on the rock wall to your right. This is the 'trench'. An excellent bouldering area dubbed the 'Skull Cave' is located 50m out from the entrance. To get into the trench with the sport routes you must climb a 20m grade 2 bridging corner into the cave.

Wave of Mutilation 10m 24 **

The route begins at the left hand end of the Trench. Follow 3 FH to a chain anchor. A tricky crux on sensational rock. A #2 Rock will protect the start, or stick-clip the first bolt. FFA Tim Marsh 16.11.2002

Spinal Tap 25m 23 **

4m right of *Wave of Mutilation*. Chimney up the start to the first FH. Flakes, pockets and hecuos lead up steep orange wall past eight FH's. Watch the lurking block behind you between the fourth and sixth bolts. Neil Monteith & Nick McKinnon 2.1.2003

Used Platypus Condom 15m 19 *

Steep pumpy jug hauling on orange rock. Located on upper wall deep inside chasm. Two RB's to start then medium gear to DRB lower off. FFA Neil Monteith & Dean Chamberlain 12.10.2002

Aleutian Crack 35m 16 *

The shrubbery isn't as bad as it looks! On the left side of the entrance to the Marianas Trench there is a wide crack. From the ground, scramble up on jumbled blocks for 5 meters to gain the base of the crack. A couple of layback moves take you to a grassy ledge. Climb the slab on the left of the crack to avoid some vegetation before stepping back into the line and on to the top. A big cam (4 Camalot or similar) is useful. FFA David Jupp, Tim Marsh 2.11.02

Pike 35m 17

Good, delicate and well protected slab climbing. The slab and shallow cracks 5 meters left of *Aleutian Crack*. Climb short grassy crack onto the slab then follow the cracks to the base of the compact red/orange corner. Move left and finish up Cindy. FFA David Jupp, Tim Marsh & Michael Homfray 16.11.02

Pike Direct 35m 21?

A direct finish up the compact red/orange corner and the arete above has been top roped in the low 20's (depending upon reach), however, both rock and protection are poor. FTRA Tim Marsh, Michael Homfray 16.11.02

Cindy 35m 14

Well protected moderate slab climbing with an entertaining finish. The short chimney crack to a dog leg crack three meters left of *Pike*. Take the ramp up right to the base of the shallow orange corner at the apex of the wall which is passed on the right. FFA David Jupp, Tim Marsh 3.11.02

Elver 30m 9

Two meters left of *Cindy* is a broken chimney which splits the slab in half. Start 1-2m left of this chimney (5m left of Cindy) and follow the cracks in the slab before weaving through the tufts of grass above. A tricky start with minimal gear quickly gives way to very easily protected if occasionally mossy climbing. FFA David Jupp, Michael Homfray & Tim Marsh 17.11.02.

Downhill and slightly north of *Pellant Pinnacle* is this stand alone pinnacle. Descent is off slings either back down the route or off rock spike down the other side of pinnacle (shorter).

No Habla Espanol 26m 17

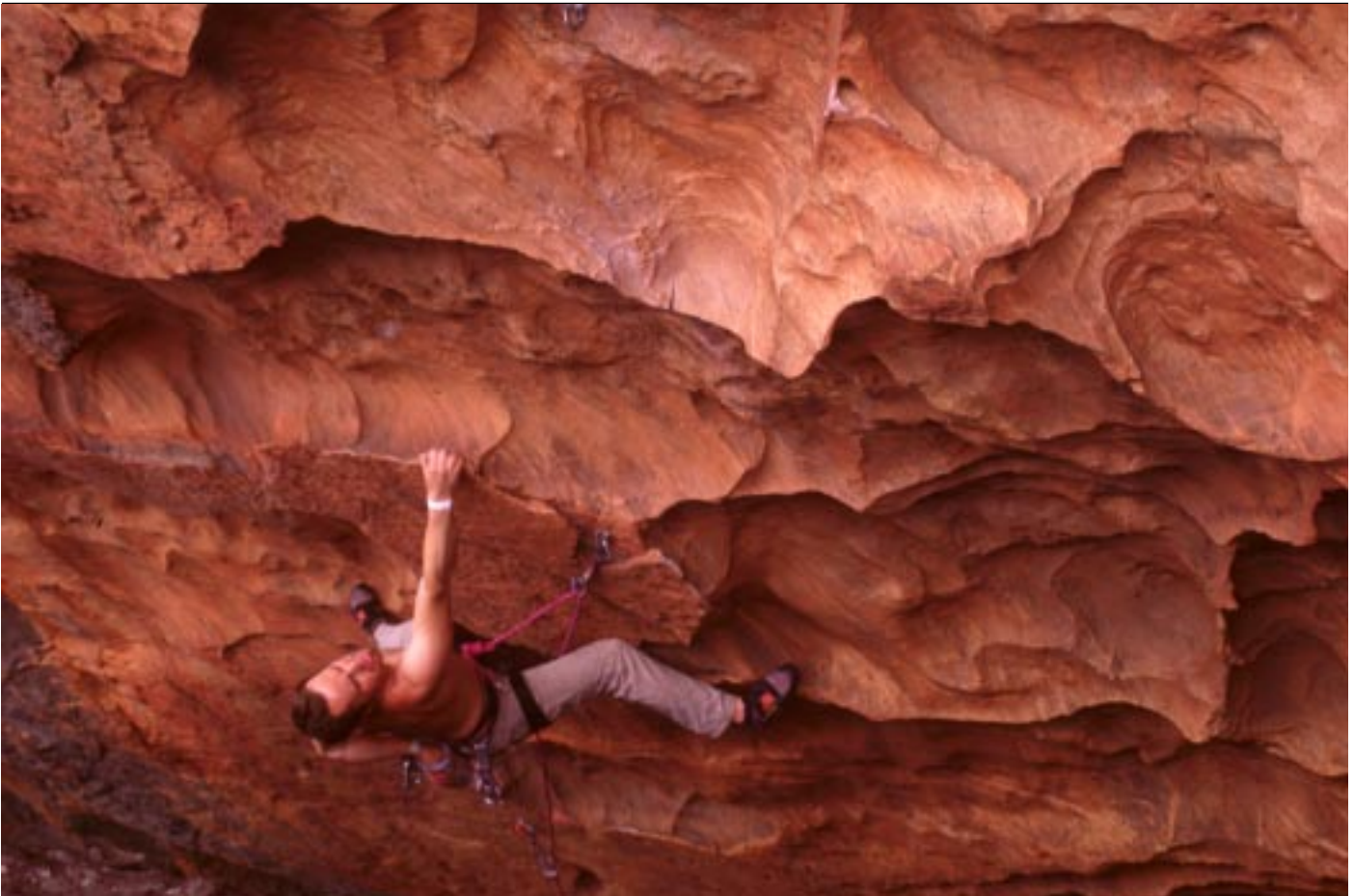
On the southeast face of the pinnacle is a bottomless wide crack. Up crack (crux) on good gear then head left up rampy corner. Finish up vertical crack on jugs. Abseil off slings either back down the route or off rock spike down the other side of pinnacle (shorter). Marcel Geelen, Jac Cutter. 13.10.02

SCOOP ROCKS

* Angry Arborist 20m 23+

Located on north facing wall about 100m west of Framed (The Prow). Traverse up and left along easy wall (cam & RB) to below big heuco. Very reachy (impossible if short!) crux dyno to heuco and into small cave. Out right and up steep wall to lower off. Six ringbolts. FFA Stephen Hawkshaw, Neil Monteith & Joe Morgan-Payler 1.3.2003

New routes recorded in the Grampians National Park, Victoria. Current to 12.04.2003



ABOVE
Neil Monteith on the first ascent of
Spinal Tap (23), Red Rocks. Photo
NickMcKinnon



BELOW
Steve Hawkshaw on the first
ascent of Angry Arborist (23),
Scoop Rocks. Photo Neil Monteith

Tree Hugger 20m 16

Climb to second bolt of Angry Arborist. Rather than dynoing upwards, traverse left delicately to exposed swing onto arete. Up jugs to top. FFA Neil Monteith & Rohan Archibald 10.3.2003

*** Poison Bait 12m 25**

Cave with ring bolts directly underneath west side of The Prow. Good rain protection and some excellent bouldering. It is also cold and windy when other areas are hot. Gym climbing on real rock. Very bouldery steep start then knobby wall to roof. Swing across five metre ceiling to chain. Five RB's. FFA Neil Monteith 5.4.2003

Chemical Addiction 10m 19

Located on southern side of small boulder 'The Small Block' at eastern end of The Prow. Stickclip FH at 4m. Jump for good holds in middle of the small block (or delicately up just R). Up and R of FH, past R side of rooflet. Tending L past this with good wires to top. Natural belay. Walk off. FFA Joe Goding, Amanda Cole, Stephen Holloway. 29.03.2003.

*** Double Short Black 10m 22**

Located on buttress (Latte Land) about 60m south of Chemical Addiction. Located at west end of buttress and right of chasm. Steep climbing on good holds. Twin ropes recommended. Step across from boulder opposite attractive wall onto broken foothold (BR). Traverse R past 2nd BR to (#1 WC Flexi Friend, #5 nut) back L to 3rd BR (crux). Steeply up & R to crack (#0.2 BD Flexi Camelot + #2 BD Camelot). Up to top. Natural belay on lots of smallish cams. FFA Joe Goding, Amanda Cole 30.03.2003

MT POX

**** Taste of Husky 50m 23**

Thin steep crack up blank wall. Despite appearances the route has good gear and no finger locks! Starts 2m left of Snow Cat Rock 'n' Roll. Pitch 1 20m 23 – Left leading pumpy crack with difficult reachy move at fixed wire. Belay on ledge. Pitch 2 30m 18 – Straight up middle of wall on good jugs but spaced gear. FFA Neil Monteith & Geoff Butcher 9.3.2003

Pox FM 15m 16

Swing left over bulge to ledge as for Pox Rot. Step right and up rounded arete to finish on ledge. Rap off sling or finish up easy rock above for another 30m. FFA Neil Monteith, Geoff Butcher & Rohan Archibald 9.3.2003

WHEAT-BIX WALL

0.5km SE (towards Chimney Pots) from Cakewalk Wall there is a car space/camp area on the right, park here. Follow the track to the creek and cross on the log. Follow the animal trails (pigs?) to the buttress seen on the other side of the swamp. These climbs are on the buttress left and 50m up behind the first buttress. Descend either end. Total time from car is 3 minutes on well-defined trails.

Nutritionists Recommend 15m 15

On the far left of the wall is a recessed corner 3m right of this

for the middle third is a vague vertical crack line. Straight up to this and continue straight up to ledge. Step right and up. Louise Doig, Glen Buchanan. January 1999

Wheat-Bix 15m 18

At the far right of this wall is an obvious vertical crack leading to an overhang. Straight up this and trend right following weakness through the overlaps. Glen Buchanan, Louise Doig. January 1999

CHIMNEY POTS AREA [p.22 VR/KL]

On the first buttress you hit walking to *Catwalk* there is a wide chimney high up on the left that can be seen from the car park. 1. & 2. Meander up any way you like for 80m to belay at the base of this chimney. I would give it stars if it wasn't for the first two pitches - you can make them interesting though as there are lots of little overlaps, which do not need to be avoided. 3. 35m (Crux) Bridge the chimney (taking one wall or the other when needed) to the top, which is really quite dry and clean. Take plenty of slings to wrap around plates for protection. This brings you to the perfect view of *Catwalk* - which is what we thought we set off on !!! Scramble off the back to the left - you can cut down the walk by rapping from trees on the way down. Louise Doig, Glen Buchanan. (alt) January 1999

Catwalk Variant Finish 40m 17

This avoids the chimney filled with three inches thick moss and the scrambling through the shrub filled gully, which would otherwise comprise the last two pitches of *Catwalk*. 6.a as per Variant in VRG. 7.a 40m Sidle left across chimney gully and a further 10m to belay in a scooped out ledge. Tackle the overhang on huge jugs at the obvious weakness in the centre of the scoop. Step right and follow vertical dyke/flake system and then follow flakes to the top, veering slightly left as you go. Glen Buchanan, Louise Doig. September 1999.

A great day out on the Chimney Pots however is to do the first pitch of *John the Baptist*, walk across the *Catwalk* traverse to do the next pitch of *John the Baptist*, following it all the way up to the gallery window, continue from here up *Catwalk* and follow the description up to *Catwalk Variant Finish* as described above.

MOUNTAIN LION [p.16 VR/KL, p.79 SWGI/GT]

Kitten With A Whip 20m 16

3m to the right of *Wildcat* go up vertical crack line for 2m resisting the temptation to veer left by keeping right and go straight up. At the slightly sloped break (About 1m below scooped out section) veer left to cross *Wildcat* and take its left hand branch, topping out to the right of the bollard of Lion Premiums. Glen Buchanan, Louise Doig, Karen Sutherland, Andy Johnston. 20.01.01

THE WALL OF DECEIT

Half Burnt Match 50m 14

Start at the lovely clean crack 1m right of the black line forming the black identifying chimney. Go up this (when it gets pumpy there is a huge secret hold out right) until it peters out. Step left into the chimney and follow the black line to the top. At 30m a large ledge is reached which in hindsight is the best place to stop, as you can walk left and a 23m rap off a bollard into green gully seems the best descent. Glen Buchanan, Louise Doig, Dionne Norgate, Erik ?. 27.1.01

THE AVENUE [Refer VCC New Routes 1999 page 22 for other routes]

The End of Silence 12m 23

Start 3 metres right of *Dressed To Kill*. Up steeply to a reasonable horizontal break and rest. Move up and slightly right into groove/scoop then traverse back left to jugs and up. Nick Ping, Glen Donohue 5.11.00

SOUTH EASTERN GRAMPIANS

SEG/CB - South Eastern Grampians by Chris Baxter
 NSEG/CB - New Climbs in SE Grampians by Chris Baxter
 SEGPDF - South East Grampians Update PDF by VCC
 TWR/CB - The Wonderland Range by Chris Baxter

MOUNT ROSEA

Debutante's Early Exit 45m 16ish

As for *Debutante* but for 4th pitch - shorten the rightward traverse to about 2m. Pull past small roof then up through off-width and up jugs to exit (or set hanging belay when you feel like it). Dan Kortschak, Kirsty Kitto. 6.1.02 (Maybe a repeat of *Debutante DF* although it sounds as if it starts a bit further right. BA)

BOROKA BUTTRESS AREA

About 50-100m up the main gully from the *Reflections/Images* block is a steep wall running up the hillside. Scramble up the side gully below this wall, past a large jammed block to a weakness in the wall.

The Infanta 11m 16

Up past a block and scoop to gain the crack in the black wall above, and up this. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 23.6.02

BUNDALEER

* Action Pact 25m 20

Up *Live Action*, continue up and left to base of right curving seam. Step left then up fingery grey wall left of the seam. Step right and up right side of orange face (2BR) to ledge. Wade Stevens, Mark Rewi. 9.9.00

Orange Tin 50m 17

Good combination/link up route with two sections of new climbing (see topo). Start 5m right of *Gerontion*. 1. 35m (17) Straight

up wall to join *Melon Was Here* at the left facing sickle. Up this and step right on ledge to block (as for *Melon Was Here*). Veer left up wall above and up crack to *Gerontion* anchor two. 2. 15m Finish up *Gerontion Direct Finish*. Wade Stevens, Suzie Rennie. 20.1.01

* Doctor Pangloss 25m 19

Start 5m right of Sunday Exposé at weakness just right of a tree. Straight up flakey wall and thin crack. Veer right past BR until below smooth final wall. Hand traverse 3m left to reachy finish 1m right of Sunday Exposé. Wade Stevens, NiNa Cullen. 28.1.01

* Primular 24m 14

This climb is worth a star (and probably two) if climbed with a direct start up the short wall to the narrow ledge and main corner (and not up the easy ramping line to the left which is likely to be grade 12). The climbing requires interesting and varied technique (fingery face climbing, mantling, nice bridging and even a possible layback or hand jamming move), the protection is excellent (using a variety of cams, small wires and slings), the rock is solid with some surprising pockets and the belay is extremely comfortable ... what more could you want! Climbed by several VCC parties on November 23, 2002

That Thing With Max 18m 13

Up the arête right of Cop Out, move right at the top to avoid second overhang, protection is adequate though not really easy to find. Crux is the overhang at the top, carefull of dodgey rock after you move right. Stephen Martin, Max Neve. 28.12.02

MOUNT WILLIAM RANGE

STOCKYARD WALL

It's the 711 metre peak 2 km west of Major Mitchell Plateau. Average quality cliff, fair bit of potential. Access: Park on Grampians Tourist Road at unmarked Stockyard Track 500m northeast of Stockyard Creek (about 6km north of Jimmy Creek). Walk east along vehicle track to clearing just past the 9th earth hump. Take the overgrown left fork in the track for 5 minutes 'till 100m past a cairn. Walk northeast up hill to summit (711m) then east down a chimney descent. About an hour from the road.

Movement At The Station 20m 16

About 80m right of the descent chimney is an attractive orange wall. Around right of this is a blocky corner leading to a north facing wall. Up corner and wall, moving left around the arête. Melanie McIntosh, James McIntosh. 16.5.98

BARBICAN WALL

* Harbinger 45m 19

An independent finish has been added to *Stormbringer LHV* (Rock #38) and this provides a link to the best climbing on *Pirate Direct Finish*, giving an excellent sustained route. 1. 25m (18) Up *Stormbringer's* vertical corner to the overhang. Step left (not right) 2m to the arête. Steep move through the overlap then veer right up wall to recessed triangular ledge. Up to stance on arête.

(*Stormbringer* anchor 1, this pitch is as for the LHV). 2. 20m (19) Up to overlap (*Stormbringer* steps right here), then hand traverse left to rest under the prominent "pulpit" feature. Steeply up left to dimply ledge under small roof. Step left to finish up *Pirate Direct Finish* (19). (NB. *Harbinger* FA finished by stepping right and up through flake/overhang but *Pirate DF* is better finish.) P1 Wade Stevens, Mark Poustie. 21.3.98 P2 Wade Stevens, NiNa Cullen. 3.2.01 (Obviously no need to include "*Stormbringer LHV*" at all.)

Yawl 78m 14

The present description is obviously inadequate as the second pitch is supposedly 23 metres (making the first pitch more than 50!). Note also that very faint initials are chipped into the rock for Man Overboard climb up corner and then slightly right of dubious flakes to block on wide bushy ledge. 2. 20m Move to back of ledge and climb left corner crack past loose blocks and a bush to belay below the main corner of Man Overboard. 3. 27m As for pitch three of Man Overboard but belay on ledge with pimply rock and below large summit block. 4. 8m Traverse left about 4m over gap, then easily up to top.

FOURTH DIAL

Strychnine 45m 15

The 'stout banksia tree' in the route description now appears to be a broken stump!

Salvation 52m 13

The grade would be better increased to 14 as climbing the main bulge on the first pitch was considered to be very technical. The rock quality at the top of the second pitch is not 'poor', it's merely 'pimply', and with reasonable rope management is of no concern.

BUDJA BUDJA

Rib Tickler 12m 17

Start immediately right of the initialled chimney/crack line. Up rightward through bulge then follow right leaning crack up and right into the vertical line and finish up this. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 21.6.02

BUDJA BUDJA UPPER CLIFF

The existing routes at Budja Budja are on a small separate block. Up the hill about 20m behind the right-hand end of this block a long relatively featureless slab/wall begins, continuing across the hillside rightward. It is split by 4 distinct well spaced crack lines.

Diddy Stick 10m 16

The second crack, just right of the orange overhang. Jeremy Maddox, Philip Armstrong. 12.10.02

Punch Line 11m 21

The third crack line, about 10m right of the orange overhang. Nice clean crack with some classic narrow Page 14 ARGUS

January, 2003 hand jamming through the bulge. Pity it isn't longer. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 21.6.02

Sleeping In Jag 10m 16

The fourth crack, nearly at the right-hand end of the wall. Short but enjoyable and varied jamming up the clean, slightly dog legged crack. Jeremy Maddox, Philip Armstrong. 21.6.02

How're You Doodling? 10m 14

Follow the ledges and ramp rightward from Sleeping In Jag, then straight up. Philip Armstrong, Chris Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 12.10.02

Sod You Then 13m 15

Walk about 30m right of the right-hand end of the long cliff line then scramble up to a block split by a distinctive off-width/chimney line. Quite fun in an old-fashioned way. Take something large for protection. Jeremy Maddox, Philip Armstrong. 12.10.02

Knotty Ash 12m 18

At the right-hand edge of the Sod You Then buttress. Undercut line to start (the tree helps) then good climbing up the flake cracks. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox. 12.10.02

CROCODILE ROCK

* Apres Dengue 24m 20/21

Start up *Checks and Balances* then instead of stepping right, continue straight up the steep arete moving slightly right at the top. Graeme Smith, James McIntosh, Wayne Maher. 10.3.01

Better Than Malaria 24m 22/23

Start 1m left of *Apres Dengue*. Up the short wall then right facing corner and steep crack. Leader took a rest on first ascent (22,M0), but it was seconded cleanly. Graeme Smith, Wayne Maher, James McIntosh. 10.3.01

Flying Buttress 22m 16

Line on front of buttress right of *Brass Razoo*, then straight up. James McIntosh, Wayne Maher. 10.3.01

Also, some comments on this cliff from James McIntosh: Graeme is being modest. *Après Dengue* is worth at least a star. *Checks & Balances* is 19 and worth 2 stars. You can dump the bit about the best climbing in the north Mount William Range, that's not true. Elephant Man is worth 1 star.

WONDERLAND RANGE

LAKE VIEW WALL

Venus In Furs 20m 11

Corner a couple metres right of *Talk To Me Dirty*. Up short corner to ledge with tree. Step right and up the continuation of the corner to step right at the top. Mike Wust, Paul Turner, Lesley roberts, Iain Sedgman. 29.12.00

Stag Party 20m 15

Easier (a couple of rades) if you use the small bush/tree at the

end of the traverse. Starts a couple metres left of *The Rutting Season*. Up short corner to roof, traverse left to the arete and up the easy corner above. Mike Wust, Paul Turner, Lesley Roberts, Iain Sedgman. 29.12.00

Thomas Saves The Day 15m 20

Starts a few metres right of *The Rutting Season*. Climb the line and overhang to finish. Jeremy Boreham, Kevin Lindorff, Mike Wust, The Fat Controller

MOUNT ABRUPT

THE CHEESECAKE

Concrete scones 25m 16

Up *Old English* for 2m, step right, climb centre of face to exit top right, on arête. Ramon and Catherine Francis. September 1998

Rings, RPs, Chalk & Cheese 25m 23

Straight up centre of face, below RB, 2m left of *Old English*. Take a few RPs. One RB at start, to rap off DRBs on the ledge. Doubled 50m rope reaches the ground. Ramon Francis, Dalen Court. 30.10.98

SOLENT CLIFF

Hapless Hammer Head 28m 17

Up *Whiplash* for 21m. Traverse up left on stepped flake. Finish up middle break in wall to bushy ledge. Ramon Francis, Dalen Court. 26.12.98 We lead this in the rain chucking off a fair bit of crap as we went which may have made it look more appealing to the chaps who did it on 17.1.99 and named it Methane Magic.

Barracuda 15m 18

Starts about 10m left of the right-hand end of Solent Cliff that has *Whiplash* on it. If you get to a recessed short orange wall, back up 10m. Starts in roofed V-corner. Step left and up first seam. Dalen Court, Ramon Francis. 2.1.99

Orange Roughy 11m 22

Good fun. Follow cliff past *Whiplash* for about 30m and *Orange Roughy* wall is set back on your left. Up right side of steep little wall on good edges. Ramon Francis, Dalen Court. 2.1.99

NORTHERN CLIFF

ETMA 110m 17

At the left end of the Northern Cliff is a large cave Start up the right arête of this cave where it meets the main face. 1. 40m (17) Up through short crack and overhang, step left to belay, good ledge. 2. 25m (17) Step right and up to roof move through on right, up and left to belay. 3. 35m (15) Step right up to hand traverse under large roof at 15m up at its right end up to big ledge under large roof. 4. 10m (17) Exit through weakness in right side/end of roof, gymnastic. Joseph O'Connell, Ramon Francis. (alt) 11.10.99

BLACK RANGE

TBG/BA - The Black Guide by Bill Andrews
BR/PDF - Black Range Update PDF from VCC

BLACK IANS ROCKS

Papal Annulment 24m 16

"Worth anything only for sick people like me who seek out any section of off-width they can find." Contrived divergence from *Decree Nisi*. At the tree, climb the off-width crack directly through the small roof, religiously avoiding the obvious line to the left. Dan Kortschak, Matt Shortill. 28.4.02

Peaceful Resolution 23m 25/26

Wall 2m left of *The Willows Milkbar*. Straight up. 3 RBs. Ramon Francis, Ben Ikla. 4.10.01

BLACK SHEBA'S BUTTRESS

Commercial groups have been giving the area a big going over and there is now a major track into the south (left) end of the cliff. It starts from the east end of the native pines on the north side of Saddle Camp and goes, more or less, straight up the hill side. A good track also exists along the top and the bottom of cliff.

A Life Time Later 20m 16

Starts 5m right of *Eye For A Line*. Up past eco-bolt, then thin flake to beneath overhang. Finish steeply up left side of this. An Eco-bolt (Ebolt) is a correctly placed SS bolt as opposed to the numerous poorly placed long carrots and fixed hangers. Wayne Maher, Pia Larque. 3.12.00 (The corner on the right of the overhang has also been climbed at the same grade.)

Kalahari Sojourn 20m 15

Start on face just around right of *Tom Tom*. From the left side of the undercut face head up diagonally right to the bottomless right facing corner and to the top. Mike Wust, Lesley Roberts, Jannie Chin. 18.11.00

Climb with a Lawyer 17m 13

The body swallowing crack 1m right of *Toucan*. Iain Sedgman, Heather Phillips. 18.11.00

Toucan grade correction: If *Toucan* is 17 I'll eat meat. For that matter I've got doubts about 18 but I'd best not get carried away. Seriously it AIN'T 17 – Iain Sedgman. *Revenge Of The White Rhino* would be worth two stars if it were a little cleaner, which it will no doubt soon be. There appears to be a new route with 4 FHs up the face at the left end of the cliff, any details?

Just reminiscing about climbing in Australia, having a look around the VCC site and checking out the guide-book updates, and I noticed the following comment about a climb at Black Sheba's, in the Black Guide update: "Page 49. There appears to be new route with 4 FHs up the face at the left end of the cliff, any details?" I can't remember the exact date but I bolted this route sometime in the second half of 2000, I think. I've been moving around a lot in the last few years, hence my memory

is a bit hazy. I distinctly remember having another go at it in the summer of 2000/2001, before moving west, so I must have bolted it shortly before then. I've moved a few more times since and now I find myself in The Netherlands, pining the absence of an Australian climbing summer, given the weather here and lack of rock! Anyway, some friends and I stumbled onto the line during the first half of 2000 and gave it a go with a top rope. I came back and bolted it (need a cam for the last few moves on the top I think, or some stacked nuts, but I think the cam is easier?). Never managed to free it yet – still dreaming about the sequence every night and planning to come back and do it! I called it Doxycycline (I think that's the spelling - can't remember how to spell that magical antimalarial that they also use for acne control) and I think it's about 24 or so, - but i haven't been there in a while, so the abseiling efforts of the Scouts et al might have worn the cliff down and it's now a wheelchair access route or something? The crux is just at the first bolt if I remember correctly. After that it's pretty nice climbing at about 20/21. Hope the info helps. CheersJon Blank

Note this area may have been climbed before, as some broken flakes exist. About 30 metres right and north of Mombassa and across the descent gully is the next and lower rock outcrop with an obvious chimney with overhang toward its left hand end.

Out Of Africa 12m 15

Climb the chimney then traverse left under the roof using big cams for protection and then up. Ben Wright, Jack Lewis. 8.12.02

Congo 11m 8

The broken juggy line just right of the arête provides good climbing at the grade. Jack Lewis, Jonathan Bryant, Ben Wright. 8.12.02

Zambese 10m 11

The curving flake/crack starting from the top of the large block at the base of the cliff approximately 6 metres right of Congo. Ben Wright, Jonathan Bryant. 8.12.02

Impala 11m 13

Bound straight up the wall starting just right of the large block. Protection is adequate. Ben Wright, Jack Lewis. 8.12.02

BLACK RANGE ROAD OUTCROP

Sombrero Fallout 15m 18

Start 3m right of *Miriamski*, under a large guano stain. Veer left up wall (#0 SLCD in pocket, medium hex or #2 Camalot passively in higher pocket) and then through left end of overhang, just left of a horn. Wade Stevens, NiNa Cullen. 26.1.01

Bomba 20m 18

Quite technical and committing for a "three move wonder", but otherwise forgettable. Start 4m left of *Weight For Age Handicap*, left of the tree. Steep crack and overhang then finish easily up *Weight For Age Handicap*. Wade Stevens, NiNa Cullen. 26.1.01

Flap Flap Flop 18m 18

Start as for *Fledgling*. Straight up to ledge at 1/3 height. Step up then veer right following the holds up the black hall. FTRA NiNa Cullen, Wade Stevens. 26.1.01

Halfpence And Farthings 10 10m

Start: Starts about 13m left of Sweepstake at a jam crack just right of a chimney. Up the crack, past some suss looking blocks. Straight on up. Iain Sedgman, Ann Pauligk, Yvette Pauligk. 27.12.02

BURRUNJ NORTH

BOYS TOUPEE AREA

My Legs Are Out Of Batteries 12m 14

The central line (slab then crack) between Wigg Mistress and Lower Hawksebury. Wayne Maher. Solo. 2.12.00
HUT POINT

Cliff at the other end of Red Rock Bushland Reserve from Black Ian's Rocks. This climb takes the main buttress about 150m right of the old hut. A gentle 20m walk through light bush from vehicle track, past a pudding-shaped boulder, gains the outcrop.

Derelict 25m 10

The obvious left-leaning crackline through two bulges. The summit offers a glorious panorama from Arapiles to The Fortress. Keith and Tim Lockwood. 5.7.99

Frans Chimney 10 ?m

Chimney between *Wowsity* and *Office Face*. Frances Taylor, James Falla, Jon Bassindale. December 2000

Black Crack 8 ?m

Black crack left of *Gift Of Stones*. James Falla, Jon Bassindale, Frances Taylor. December 2000

Gift Of Stones Mac 11 ?m

Wall right of *Gift Of Stones*. Jon Bassindale, James Falla, Frances Taylor. December 2000

Little Richard 6 ?m

Longest ridge on little knob behind Ponder Rock. Descent from the top is probably the crux. Jon Bassindale, Frances Taylor. December 2000

I believe you have the compass point on the reproduction on the web page pointing the wrong way. Whilst doing these climbs I also repeated *Shonuff* (or is it *Flatliner*?). It is probably grade 18, and it should be mentioned that once the crack peters out its easier, and safer, to step right and finish up the arete. Jon Bassindale