

New Routes - Mount Difficult



The new routes listed below are those which are located in the Mount Difficult Range, which is defined here to include everything south and/or east of Roses Gap Rd, and north of the Mount Victory Rd. Included routes are those which have been submitted, and which are not in the existing published guidebooks (*Grampians Select*, Mentz & Tempest 1998; *North Grampians*, Andrews 1989?; *North Grampians Update*, Andrews 1993?; *Mount Difficult Range*, McIntosh & Andrews 1999; the online [Mt Difficult Range Update](#) ; and are not in the October 2003 online [Grampians PDF guide](#).

The routes here are made available on this site on an "as received" basis without any verification by the VCC. Thus, listed routes may have inaccurate details such as grade/length/location etc, or may be entirely fictional. If you have any information that clarifies or questions existing route descriptions, please send it in to [New Routes](#) You need JavaScript to see this content. .

Information regarding replacement/installation of bolts and abseil anchors can be found at [Safer Cliffs Victoria](#).

TROOPERS CREEK CLIFF

Access - To get to Spectre and nearby routes, do not walk in from the road! Follow the tourist track for 10 minutes to Tilwinda Falls. Cross the creek and follow the track uphill along the bottom of the cliff line until in a further 10 minutes you are standing under a considerable corner. This is Spectre. from Wayne Maher.

MOUNT DIFFICULT

*Gale Force 24m 21

Shares the start of He Who Walks Through Shallow Water until #9 nut, then traverses left past steep thin moves past 3rd FH into scoop. Up and left out of this to easier ground and DBB. Move right on large ledge to abseil station. Not as sustained as He Who Walks Through Shallow Water (Finally managed to get a loan of a decent hammer drill from a friend for this one! Oh what a feeling!) Joe Goding, Simon Pateman. 24.11.01

Top Access 30m (approx) 18 (approx)

Access to the top off the ledge above He Who Walks through Shallow Water and Gale Force. From DBB/Chains move left along large ledge to obvious crack around 2-3m from far left-hand end. Up this with difficulty to very easy ground above. DBB/Chains same setup as lower chains except these ones are installed with double expansion 110mm M10 G316 Stainless FIXE bolts.

*Dead Calm 30m 21

30-50m past river on main track (about 5-600m past the 2 above lines) on left-hand side of prominent steep buttress. 5 x 110mm M10 FIXE G316 Dual expansion bolts (With FIXE Hangers) and one glue (Ramset HAC10) in ring bolt lead right through steep moves until you reach the easier face above (lots of natural pro). DBB/rings lower off - approx 25m to ground. Joe Goding, Graham Holden. 3.11.01

Some Choss Heap 65m 15

(-1 star) Loose, poorly protected. Not worth repeating. Major arête right of Queen Bee. 3 pitches, say 25m, 25m, 15m. Start around the right side in corner, moving up and left onto face. Back right at around 25-30m to belay in corner system. Horizontally left onto arête proper, straight up to ledge. Bail here to avoid further complications. Traverse down and across to major ledge, rap from tree atop 1st pitch of Queen Bee. Joe Goding (P1&3), Steve Hamilton (P2). 6.10.02

Monkey Man 3rd pitch variant

Mt Difficult, Grampians: 25m, grade 16? As for described route through bottomless chimney. Head towards back of chimney, then turn around to face outwards, then rising bridging traverse. Take some large cams. Exit onto L wall (facing out) then up to top. May 2003. Michael Giacometti, John Maher

BARRS BUTTRESS

Access would be better described as - Park on the Roses Gap road 800m south west of the entrance to the Roses Gap Recreation Centre etc.... Locate the remnants of an old vehicle track that cross the creek down an embankment on the side of the road etc..... The scrub as mentioned in the guide, although light, is now chest height (unless you are an 8 year old). The walk in is now closer to 15 minutes than 10 minutes. We could not locate Den Of Thieves or Embezzled, however Daylight Robbery appears to be on a buttress 50m left of the central V-corner (La Belle Epoque). There is also a small V-corner 30m to the right of La Belle Epoque. This is basically a two route cliff, both climbs La Belle Epoque (20) and Decolletage (20) are quite good. from Wayne Maher.

BREAKFAST ROOM BUTTRESS

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Eggs Benedict 40m 18

Good climbing up the sizeable face around the arête R of The Chattering Classes. Crack, then sustained face directly above finishing more easily through a couple of bulges. Philip Armstrong, Chris Armstrong 9 May 2004

CENTURION WALLS

An online guide to this area can be found [here](#).

***Devil's Haircut 25m 25/26**

Absorbing and powerful sport climbing up nice orange rock. Climb Compressor Route to fifth RB. Step left under block (RB) and fire up excellent wall above (three RBs) with some nice big pockets to DRB lower-off. FFA Neil Monteith. 7.9.03

Pining For The Fiords 20m 22 * [sport]

The parrot in the horizontal is most certainly dead or perhaps it's just resting? Steep cave climbing across a major feature on sometimes bizarre conglomerate rock. Starts 5m right of The Compressor Route. Stickclip first UB, then boulder up onto ledge. Balance and stretch rightwards using shallow mono to gain steep horizontal break. Monkey along this (past the sleeping Norwegian Blue) to novelty cave rest. Blast up headwall above which eases to jugs. 6 bolts and rap anchor. FFA Neil Monteith, Michael Lawrence, Adam Demmert & Catherine de Vaus 18.6.2006

PROMISED LAND

Cairn marking the route up to the cliff from the jeep track may not always be there, we did replace it recently. The route in should not be too hard to work out anyway. from Wayne Maher.

THE HEAVENS

For historical accuracy, this cliff was first visited by climbers, that is Chris Baxter and party at a date prior to the first routes recorded by others. There was however no climbing done at that time. from Wayne Maher.

PINE WALL

Lost Johnnie 60m 19

At the L end of the cliff there is a section high up with a couple of square cut corners and walls [most visible as you walk up to the cliff]. Below these is an orange roof line above slabby rock. Start below the lowest part of these roofs. 1. 40m Easy line on L then up slab to the roof, follow roof line up and L to ledge, L on this to tree. 2. 10m [crux] Step L to thin crack, up. 3. 10m Arete behind tree at back of ledge finishing R ward. Philip Armstrong and Chris Armstrong 12 June 2004

THE WATCHTOWER

Welcome to the Machine Direct Finish 12m 16

This obvious finish has probably been climbed previously. Up P2 of WM to the bulge, pull directly through this and up. Philip Armstrong, Jeremy Maddox 31 July 2004

The possible Direct Finish to Welcome to the Machine (The Watchtower, Grampians) reported in Argus, August 2004, is almost certainly a repeat of pitch two of The Things I Used to Do (25-4-04). Chris Baxter

Total Recoil - right hand variant 24

Start 3m right of Couldn't Stand The Weather. Up to 2nd FH. Step down then up right to Purple Haze corner. Hard moves Left to 3rd FH then up. Some small wires. Steven Wilson, Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes 2002

Total Recoil Direct 26?

Starts 3 m right of Couldn't Stand the Weather. Straight up wall past 3 fixed hangers, small wires. Double ring lower off (which services Purple Haze as well). First free ascent Steven Wilson Jan 2005.

*note: bolted for the direct line - open project

I note a reference in the Mt Difficult Range guidebook on the grading of Stephen Hamilton's Pride and Joy 19 at the Watchtower. It comments that as Campbell Mercer's Fruit Salad 16 shares the same crux P&J might be overgraded. As a word of warning to anyone starting up on that basis my experience of repeating several of Campbell's routes in the Grampians is that they are consistently undergraded by around 2 grades. I have repeated many of Stephen's routes and found them to be closer to the mark. I haven't done either of the routes mentioned but Fruit Salad looks considerably harder than 16 and unprotected to boot. Philip Armstrong