

New Routes - Victoria Range



The new routes listed below are those which have been submitted, and which are not in the existing published guidebooks (*Grampians Select*, Mentz & Tempest 1998; *Victoria Range*, Loughran 1989?; *South Western Grampians Interim*, Talbett & McIntosh 1994; and are not in the October 2003 online [Grampians PDF guide](#).

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

GONDWANALAND

An online guide to Gondwanaland with photo topos can be found [here](#).

*Grit Life 20m 16

Excellent grey wall five metres right of the arête of Up The Road. Start in juggy corner on right side of wall and climb this until you can hand traverse left along break at 3m. Climb the face above trending leftwards to finish up beautiful cracked headwall. Protection is sparse in middle section. FFA Neil Monteith, Jono Schimdt. 6.7.03

*Faceless 20m 25

Sustained thin wall climbing up a slightly overhung face. Same start as Picking Plums but head right along juggy break past RB then follow further five RBs up crimp wall to DRB anchor. Fourth RB is hard to clip. FFA Neil Monteith 7.6.03

**Face Off 24m 26

AKA Faceless Direct Start. Adds four more bolts and a very tough series of tenuous laybacks to the start. Joins Faceless for its last four rings. Starts on small ledge down and right of Picking Plums with a single RB belay (#4 cam useful for upward pulling anchor). Span the gap between the big jug and the "crack" with a shoulder destroying reach then plant your feet on nothing and layback to glory. Beware of runout between bolt 4 and 5. FFA Neil Monteith 28.2.04

Face The Dissection 24 (prev 23) thin and hard crux

Chasing The Sun 20m 21

Orange slab split by thin seam and a great overhung finish. Located on separate buttress 100m left of the second short rock wall you reach on the walk up to the main cliff of Gondwanaland. Boulder start (RB) then right leading weakness to seam. Up this for 10m then skirt under orange roof and then thug back left across overhang to crux finish. Lower off last bolt or belay on ledge. Four bolts plus natural gear to finger crack size. FFA Neil Monteith, Monique Forestier, Simon Carter. 12.10.03

The Dragon's Lair 80m 17

This area is around 3-400m uphill of the existing routes, approach is by a short, loose and dirty corner (see obvious erosion). Up to high point in narrow gully to see the obvious thin ridgeline which looks somewhat like a dragon's back. This route starts on the left wall, at a point where there is an obvious horizontal break. 1. 10m (8) Traverse along this (right) for 10m to belay below orange corner. 2. 25m (17) Up delicately with good gear and good holds just watch the rock quality. Take your time and you will be fine. 3. 30m (17) Continue up and left to pass massive cave on its right, both gear and holds thin out in the middle of this pitch. Belay about level with the top of the cave. 4. 25m (12) Easily up to top. Scramble off just before the top of the pinnacle, to the south side, heading east through narrow gully. Retrace your path to the beginning. Joe Goding, Stephen Holloway. 15.2.03

THE LOST WORLD

Directions to The Lost World (7/2/04)

Access: The directions in the Victoria Range Guide are incorrect, the Lost World is NOT along Matthews Track it is along the Emu's Foot track. This is the same road as for Eureka Walls and Gondwanaland. The Emu's Foot Track is not signposted and runs south-east at the foot of the Victoria Range and finishes at barriers at the Camp of the Emu's Foot. Drive along this track for 2km to the parking bay on the left, the walking track is marked with cairns. Follow cairns until they run out and head left over the black slabs towards the tiered orange wall of Little Boy Lost, Space Odyssey and The Obelisk (this is the right side of the creek upper terrace) Walking down along cliff is Cosmos (22) and Humbolt (20/21) easy to spot ring bolts. Further down the track is

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the crack of Roraima (18), Casiquiare (21) and the "staggering" red arête of Red Line. A map of the area might clear things up.

There has been some recent activity in The Lost World area of the northern Victoria Range (Victoria Range Guide, Loughran, p.46, and South-Western Grampians interim guide, p.3). Some people have started calling the area The Orinoco, but the earliest routes on both sides of the creek are listed as being in The Lost World. A cairned track from a parking bay leads up to the Little Boy Lost/A Space Odyssey area. Many of the routes are absolute stunners - some of the best in the Grampians. The following is a resume of old and new routes Left side of the creek = The Go-Between, Indiana Jones and The Mind Tinker (see guidebooks). Right side of the creek, lower terrace:

Orinoco Flow 26

Mind-blowing roof and arête by Malcolm Matheson.

Right side of the creek, upper terrace, routes described left to right:

Red Line 28

Staggering red arete by Malcolm Matheson, September 2003.

Casiquiare 25m 21

Great climbing up a corner followed by a series of overhangs. Start down left of Roraima and climb initial wall on pockets, trending right into the line. Straight up line all the way. Malcolm Matheson, Tim Lockwood, Keith Lockwood. 4.10.03

Roraima 25m 18

Obvious crack splitting the orange tower. Straight up all the stepped overhangs. Malcolm Matheson, Keith Lockwood. 15.8.03

Toucan 50m 19

Rivals Roraima as an instant classic. Takes the wall topped by a jutting triangular roof which underpins a hanging headwall. 1. 30m Beautiful crack which bisects the otherwise smooth wall. When the angle eases, head up diagonally right to belay near arete. 2. 20m Step left to little orange corner. Verge right up wall and pull over roof. Traverse left along lip of the roof to the brink (fantastic exposure), then up headwall to top, finishing just left of little triangular summit overhang. Keith Lockwood, Tim Lockwood. (alts), 27.9.03.

Cosmos 35m 22

Left line up impressive orange wall, finishing through big roof. Malcolm Matheson, 2003.

Humboldt 25m 20/21

Start up pockets as for Cosmos, then traverse right along break. Up past BR and continue up line past another BR to rap station at roof (just to the right). Malcolm Matheson, Keith Lockwood. 15.8.03

The easy-angled corner around right from Humboldt has been done but is pretty ordinary. It finishes at the Humboldt rap anchors.

A Space Odyssey 27

This is the gigantic roof just left of Little Boy Lost. Looks like the prow of a battleship, as seen from the waterline. First pitch goes up black rounded arête immediately right of the chimney/gulch. Second pitch underclings the upside-down roof arête. Malcolm Matheson. September 2003.

The Obelisk 27

First pitch as for A Space Odyssey, then do roof right of A Space Odyssey's second pitch. Malcolm Matheson. September 2003.

Little Boy Lost 24

See p.3 of South-Western Grampians interim guide.

JUNGLE GYM

The Wreckery Direct

Instead of traversing left and joining up with Storm In A D-Cup at 15m keep climbing the face directly above, eventually heading slightly right up short diagonal flake to top. Makes the route a lot more sustained.

MULINE CRAG

See Talbett/McIntosh guidebook page 4.

Tattoos of Memories 40m 16

Spectacular stuff. Takes a hanging rib which bisects two big red caves, then a sweeping blade arete above. The caves feature the roof climb Path of Garth. Starts: On big cliff down and right of main Muline Crag. From the car, walk up track as far as the second rocky outcrop. Skirt right 50m

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around base of outcrop to cliff. **1.** 20m A ramp leads out the right side of a scoop. Continue up orange bulging wall to base of rib. **2.** 20m Rib, then arete. Walk off left. First ascent: Tim and Keith Lockwood, alt leads, February 17, 2006.

EMU ROCK

See South West Grampians (Gariwerd) Interim Climbing Guide page 6.

Nile 40m 13

Left of Whipping Boy is a big orange wall. Nile takes the right edge of this wall. **1.** 20m Climb slabby wall trending up right until below overhang. Pull around left side of overhang and up juggy arete to ledge. **2.** 20m Up left and up wall to the left of black slab. Step right to ledge. Abseil off bollards. First ascent: Tim Lockwood, Keith Lockwood, alt leads, and Norm Booth. April 15, 2005.

HOLLYWOOD BOWL

VRG P56. I find it hard to believe that this has not been done before, but its an exciting, worthwhile and fairly unlikely variant, so I thought I'd send it in anyway.

ancient times direct **15

1. 20m 14, start as for ancient times, belay at right hand edge of the sloping ledge at around 20m. **2.** 40m 15, the 'S' shaped crack system. Up the line 10m to overhang [watch for brittle rock], through it to the original line. 09/04/05 Tim Wallace/Hannah Loki and Phil Cutlet

Kickback 35m 24 ** [mixed]

Sporty incuts up a sustained face, then exciting trad climbing up a steep weakness. Starts about 8m right of Wings of Desire and 3m left of Trust. Traverse left across pocketed wall (two FHs) then up the face above past horizontal break (cams) and onto face proper. Edge for pleasure on sideways sloping rails (three FHs) to crux move right into seam crack. Up this crack with a dogleg left past a huge fang for 20m to top trad belay. Full trad rack to #2 SLCD required. FFA Neil Monteith & Hannah Lockie 9.4.2006

Wings of Desire (23) - I thought this was more like grade 21 and worth 1 star. It had some loose rock and wasn't very sustained. Roof move was surprisingly easy.

RED ROCK PINNACLES

Moria 40m 16

Starts about 3m right of Wimbleton at smooth part of grey wall. Up a few moves then right 2m. Follow easing seam, trending slightly left, to break overhang just right of the small red cave on Wimbleton. Keith & Tim Lockwood, Ray Lassman. 19.4.03

Gimli 25m 14

Pinnacle 30m right of Wimbleton. Climb easy-angled grey rib for about 7m, step left then steeply to top of pinnacle. Descent can be accomplished over the next pinnacle. Ray Lassman, Keith & Tim Lockwood. 19.4.03

Grey Matter 40m 13

Long gentle wall left of Womble. First move off the ground is the crux. John Taylor and Mark Sewell did an un-recorded climb in this vicinity during Easter 1978. Start in the gap between Red Rock Pinnacle and the Hamstrung pinnacle. Pull onto the wall then follow intermittent seams up the grey wall, trending gradually rightwards. If the first move is problematic, you can bridge between the two pinnacles. Keith Lockwood, Pete Canning, Norm Booth, Ed Neve. 3.5.03

Height Of Darkness 20m 15

Grey slabby wall directly opposite Fat Fingered Freak. Bouldery start which relents to big pockets and some seriously large jugs at end. Three BRs and natural pro. First ascent was climbed in the pitch-dark. FFA Neil Monteith, Jacqui Middleton. 21.9.03

***Static Ticking Rampage** 20m 22

Scoopy steep sport route. Starts below suspended chockstone belay of Strike The First Blow on backside of northern pinnacle. Up into scoop and over rooflet then easily up jugs to tricky step right onto small ledge. Blast straight up orange overhung wall above to horizontal break and finish up left past the last FH of Strike The First Blow to its rap chain. 6 RBs. Neil Monteith, Tim Lee. 27.10.03

A Bolt Too Far 10m 22 [sport]

A rising pump traverse line which doesn't quite go to the top of the cliff (yet). Starts 5m right of Static Ticking Rampage at rounded arête in shady cave. Stick-clip first bolt to protect balancy start. Monkey, huff and puff along break which keeps getting steeper and more strenuous to lower-off fourth u-bolt bolt (5th bolt above is a closed project). Stays dry in all weather. FFA Adam Demmert, Neil Monteith & Catherine de vaus 21.5.2006

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* **Struck Twice** 17m 24 [sport]

Zig zagging seam on orange bulging north face of northern pillar about 10m right of Static Ticking Rampage. The last great line of Red Rocks? Five years in the making after an aborted bolting attempt by Nick and Neil in 2001. Stickclip then batman up to first UB (or attempt the V10+ direct start!) Rightwards along very sloping rail then blast straight up bugling seam above. 6 UBs and double ring lower-off. FFA Neil Monteith & Adam Demmert 14.5.2006

Gandolf the Grey 17m 17 (S)

On the black slab opposite Static Ticking Rampage, the right hand side line past 1 UB and 4 FH. Pass 1st FH on the right to finish up the arête to a double bolt lower off. FFA Ben Hawthorne and Hugh Williams, Feb 2005.

Bellrock 17m 21 (S)

2m left of Gandolf the Grey. Up the line past 3 FH. A thin crux through the bulge and finish up the arête as for Gandolf the Grey. May be easier if you are tall. FFA Ben Hawthorne and Hugh Williams, Feb 2005.

Vertebrae 19 (prev 20) one move wonder.

Kentucky Fried Clippin¹ 8m 20 (S)

Overheating sport fun for summer. Thin climbing up short rounded arête opposite Vertebrae. Three FH¹s. Walk back to tree belay. FFA Kent Paterson & Neil Monteith 12.3.2005

Conflict Of Interest 20 (prev 21) grade 19 if you climb around the rooflet at the second bolt.

Variance 23 (prev 24) too many onsights!

Bathysphere 15m 25

Start 3 metres right of Wave Of Mutilation. Up the grey wall past 2 bolts, traversing right past another bolt to the orange scoops. Up, past a fourth bolt to a heartbreaking mantle into the beautiful spherical ledge. Chain anchor. Be careful, as the back wall is never far behind you. FFA Tim Marsh. 2004

4/1/05: This crag is slowly forming into one of the most accessible areas of mid grade sport routes in the Grampians.

Get What You Paid For 15m 23 (sport route)

Starts 2m left of Vertebrae. Pumpy underclings and nigh all footholds keep the juices flowing in the forearms. An interesting assortment of bolting technology adorns this climb. Five FH's and a u-bolt lower-off. A large wire could be useful between bolts one and two. FFA Neil Monteith & Adam Demmert 4.12.2004

Sweat of Effort 20m 23

Prominent leftwards leaning line on west facing wall 30m south of Vertebrae. Bulgy Arapiles style rock. Awkward slabby closed corner to start then pumpy traversing to finish. Good gear but needs a bit of a clean. FFA Malcolm Matheson & Neil Monteith 12.12.2004

* **Dang** 9m 20 (sport route)

An alternative first pitch to Redback. Starts 10m down and left of Conflict of Interest at prominent arête between west facing orange wall and south facing grey wall. Nice balancy climbing with three FH's. Belay on ledge with natural gear. Scramble off to the right (roped) or continue upwards into Redback grade 25. FFA Neil Monteith & Malcolm Matheson 12.12.2004

* **Full Metal Vengeance** 25m 23 (sport route)

This one's for Justin Thyme. A long juggy wall climb with a hard roof move down low. Start as for Conflict of Interest on the south face of the southern pillar. At COI's first FH step left to UB and power through awkward roof and vague finger crack to stance. Up with a slight right trend past five further UB's to the same anchor as COI. Beware the runout just before the anchor. Some medium wires could be useful if you aren't feeling bold. FFA Neil Monteith & Jono Schimdt 2.1.2005

Over And Out 12m 18 [trad]

Wide overhung trench 4m right of Used Platypus Condom. No wide trad gear required. Surprisingly steep and interesting. Walk off descent. FFA Neil Monteith & Hannah Lockie 10.12.2005

Raver Girl 15m 20 * [mixed]

A pumpy rising traverse on gritty rock. Starts 5m right of Over And Out at right edge of undercut grey wall. Boulder past FH to gain horizontals. Monkey leftwards across these (medium SLCD¹s) to a flake forming an arête. Up this arete (FH) to finish. Walk off descent. FFA Hannah Lockie & Neil Monteith 10.12.2005

Raver Boy 11m 21 * [ruined sport route]

A thin direct finish to Raver Girl. Climb past first FH to horizontals. Arrange pro and head rightwards on thin crimpers past FH to good holds. Up juggy wall past 3rd FH to top. Walk off descent. FFA Neil Monteith & Hannah Lockie 10.12.1005

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RED ROCKS AREA - BAND OF GYPSIES

* **Arrested** 12m 24 (trad)

A tougher and more compact version of Orestes at Arapiles. Steep right facing corner 6m left of Private Parts. Very sustained laybacking on immaculate finger locks and edges. Medium wires and cams. Double UB lower-off. FFA Neil Monteith 02-10-2005

* **Over Committed** 20m 20 (mixed)

Superb grit style arête. Originally led ground up in a state of pure fear. Retro-bolted to eliminate 10m runout to first bit of trad gear. Starts 3m right Band of Thieves at right edge of wall. Step off block on the right to gain arête (BR) then pivot around to left side and awkwardly up (BR) to easier ground. Continue up arête with awesome gear to top. Rap off chains above Band of Thieves. FFA Neil Monteith & Mick Hampton 2.10.2005



Pic: HB on Grand Oral Disseminator (27), by Neil Monteith

** **Grand Oral Disseminator** 25m 27 (mixed)

One of the best crack lines in the Grampians. Stared at for years by various suitors but no one had dared to actually rope up. Malcolm eventually put the climb out of its misery. The desperate right-leading diagonal on smooth orange rock. Footholds are minimal. All trad apart from lone FH at double knee bar stance at flakes widest point. Watch for skating cams and feet as the rock is very slick. Walk off for descent. FFA Malcolm Matheson & Adam Demmert 16.10.2005

Squeezed Out 13m 21 (mixed)

The bolted off-width corner/crack 5m left of Private Parts. Can be laybacked and bridged at about grade 25 (as done by first ascentist!). It is grade 21 if you enjoy thrutching inside deep cracks with fist stacks. Two BR¹s and several #5 cams are required. Neil Monteith, Adam Demmert, James Pfrunder & Malcolm Matheson 16.10.2005

Dutch Courage 18m 20 (trad)

Steep right facing corner 5m right of Crazy Like a Fox. Layback, jam and chimney - this route has everything. Up the initial corner crack, to get established in the chimney, wriggle up this with difficulty. Then right round the arête, finishing up the right hand chimney. Trad belay, then easy scramble to the slings at the top of Crazy Like A Fox. FFA Mark Gould & Boudewijn Docter 16.10.2005

* **Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy** 25m 20

Climbs Mad Cow until its second FH and then heads up and slightly right on jugs to a FH. Balancy moves up the slab to the thin diagonal seam leading right into Crazy Like a Fox. Michael O'Reilly, Steve Chapman, Ross Timms 14-04-06

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THE FAR PAVILION

An online guide (3.0 Mb) to [The Far Pavilion](#) can be downloaded.

***Beer, Brie and Waku beef Sausages maketh the man** 30m 20

Starts at the far left of the Far Pavilion at a slabby wall and finishing up an attractive left leaning diagonal crack just right of a huge roof. BTW - the top can be accessed round and left of this massive roof in about 8 mins. Climb slab with tricky thin move at about 8m to steepening. Up with some difficulty to stance, diagonally left with sustained moves in airy position. Fun climbing with good gear and good rock. 2 x 120cm slings around large spike get you to the ground. *Originally led on a 60m rope - not much slack left, but might be possible on a 50m rope. FA Joe Goding, Lawrie Cowley, Paul Tailien, Peter Mills, Ro Packer. 12.11.2005

The following routes are located a long way up and left of "The Cold War" and "Glasnost". About 200m up and left of "Glasnost" is a wide gully (a major descent gully) with a steep buttress on its right side and a vertical black textured wall on its left. Keep heading further around up and left of this next major cliff line, dropping down first (where a lovely un-climbed arete awaits, and perhaps a few more lines as well). Up and left of this about a further 100m you will find a large obvious chimney (For Old Times Sake), with a nice looking crack high on the wall to its left - starting from half height (Absorbed in Stone) and a stunning arete to its right, which is better than it looks. All routes descent via a walk off to the left (about 5-8mins). Carefully over the slabs over some large (to date un-climbed) walls to major gully where you can easily walk around the left end of the crag. There are notched holes drilled for two FIXE, but the rap station is still to be installed.

All (BR) bolts described here are M10 x 90mm G304 stainless, using Ramset hammer in epoxy glue.

For Old Times Sake 30m 12*

The obvious deep chimney in large corner. Enjoyable the whole way, just a bit too run out in places to make it really popular though. That said, good holds and gear does pop up than it looks from the ground. Up chimney for around 22m till you reach a nice corner hidden high on the right wall. Up this to natural belay. FA Geoff Gledhill, Josef Goding 26.11.2005

Absorbed in Stone 35m, 18

Sustained, delicate and consistently absorbing - but not in the same league of quality as "Bliss" and the other routes in that area. **P1** (16) 18m: Start as "For Old Times Sake" until good hold on left wall. Place high nuts above this on right wall, then traverse back left up the left leaning diagonal to arete (thin, fiddly marginal gear until you reach the arete - where a stonker sideways large nut will put a smile back on your face. Mantle onto ledge above to belay. **P2** (Crux) 17m: up crack, which saves its best and hardest till the bitter end. FA Josef Goding, Geoff Gledhill (alt) 26.11.2005

Bliss 30m, 17***

Dedicated to my darling Tamsin, beautiful moves in an excellent position on good rock. The sweeping arete on the right side of large deep corner (For Old Times Sake). Step right off 2m high block past BR to gain arete/ledge. Delicately past BR to good holds. Swing round the arete to the right (small gear - take some very small aliens) then up the slab and back left to the arete. Up the line to a dramatic but easy finish past a last BR. FA Josef Goding, Geoff Gledhill 26.11.2005

Happy Wanderer 35m, 15*

More than enough quality climbing to keep a smile on your dial the whole way. Start as for "Old Times Sake" to good nuts on right wall. Traverse right to the corner past arete (where "Bliss heads back left to join the arete), stay with the corner till the end. Good gear and interesting climbing. 2nd bypassed the chimney start, and went for the "Bliss" alternative which was very pleasant indeed. FA Geoff Gledhill, Josef Goding 27.11.2005

Bliss Left Wall Variant 30m, 20**

Classy face climbing. Share the first two BR's on "Bliss" to good holds. Left to middle of face. Blast up on unlikely holds past another BR to join the arete, and finish as for "Bliss". FA Mark Rewi, Nicholas Kiraly, Matthew Shepley 27.11.2005

Karenina 60m 22 ** [mixed]

A direct line straight up the face just right of Kava Boy. The second pitch needs a lead ascent as extreme heat thwarted attempts on the first ascent. Located about 6m left of Far Horizons on the right side of arête. **1)** 20m 22 Up left facing flake crack for a few metres and step left (BR) to gain seam crack. Up this crack which turns briefly into a runnel (#3 SLCD) to second BR and reachy move to gain continuation of cracks. Belay at same stance as end of Kava Boy pitch one. **2)** 30m 21 Up Kava Boy for 5m then step right 3m onto the unlikely cracked face. Blast straight up this for 30m to belay on ledge at end of Kava Boy pitch. Bring lots of wires for this pitch! **2. 3)** 10m 19 As for Kava Boy pitch 3. FA Neil Monteith & Hannah Lockie 11.12.2005 (2nd pitch only top-roped so far)

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CRAG X

Ramble on 18m 10

Starts just right of "Don't count your X's before their hatched" (or similar name) (very obvious orange corner that is reputedly very worthwhile). Start just left of small cave/tunnel (nice place for lunch!) at detached block leaning onto face. Up this and step onto face at about 9m, where things get a little steep, but the holds stay big and the climbing still fun. A little mossy up higher before you reach the cave. Belay below cave. Enjoyable, easy ramble. Back climb down and right to step onto huge rock (which forms the right hand side of the aforementioned tunnel/cave). *Tricky Bouldering to get off this on the south side, or very exposed nth side (not recommended). FA Joe Goding, Lawrie Cowley, Paul Tailien. 13.11.2005

EMU ROCKS

"Patagonia" [see Victoria Range Guide, P58] is an absolute ripper of a route, however the final pitch is out of character [50m of gr >2 scrambling]. Pitch 2 finishes on a ledge/ramp on the Right hand arete of Emu Rock. If you scramble 3m diagonally R below the belay, there is a good spot to abseil off - there is at least one sling there. It's exactly 50m to the ground. I'd say done this way, its definitely a contender for 3 stars. Tim Wallace.

SCOOP ROCKS

Hippy Tree Hugger Direct 16m 21

Overhung corner ten metres left of Angry Arborist. Thin laybacking past BR leads to short wide juggy crack. Finish up easy wall as for original route. Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 10.5.03

***Talon 13m 25**

Excellent steep sport climbing on polished rock. Starts 5m left of Poison Bait. Bouldery start then up rounded flake with a long move to big jug under roof. Power through five metre ceiling to finish at Poison Bait's chain. Five RBs. FFA Malcolm Matheson, Neil Monteith. July 2003

**** Three Legged Dog 22m 23**

Steep pumpy gym style climbing. Adds a hard direct start to Quasimodo's Dream on the Prow. Starts 3m right of Hunchback at protruding wide tufa fin. Up this with difficulty (FH) to large jug (small wire on left). A thin move leads to killer jugs up outstanding orange wall (2 FH's) to join Quasimodo's Dream at horizontal break 2/3rd of the way up the wall. Finish direct up juggy prow rather than bailing off to the left. Single FH and sling rap anchor. Bring a small range of cams and wires or just run it out between the bolts! FFA Neil Monteith & Malcolm Matheson June 2005

Quasimodo's Dream is a pretty soft tick for 23. There is no single hard move - it is all just steep jug pulling. Downgrading to 22 would be better.

SCOOP ROCKS - BREEDERS WALL

Peachfish 40m 17

Anyone a Tim Robbins Fan? Start 4m R of first native pine against wall. Up to first bulge, L, then back R over bulge to below second bulge. R and over this to small ledge, then continue up slabby headwall. Steve Holloway, Joe Goding, Theresa Holm 15-3-03

Small Block: At the E end of the buttress (past the big cave round left of poison bait cave) is a short wall with the following route. This can also be approached from the S side. This is called the Small Block.

Large Lamingtons 12m 19

A fun micro route. Hard start to FH, then up an L on slopy ledge to thin cracks (small wires) to top. Walk off Nth Side of block. Steve Holloway, Joe Goding, Amanda Cole April 03

***Chemical Addiction 12m 19**

Stick clip "PFH" FH 2200kg (M10x90mm G316 bolt placed with HILTI HVU Capsule) @ 4m. Jump for good horizontal break (or delicately up just R on tinys). Up and R of FH, past R side of mini-roof. Straight up past this with good wires to top. Natural belay. Scramble off north side of the small block with excellent views of the surrounding area. FFA Joe Goding, Amanda Cole, Stephen Holloway. 29.03.2003.

Latte Land: From Small block, walk approx 100m across flat ground to a good looking orange overhanging wall, about 25m high. In the gully on the right you will find...

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****Double Short Black** 10m 22.

Good fun micro route. Steep climbing on Good holds. Bridge across from boulder opposite attractive steep wall onto broken foothold (BR). Traverse R past 2nd BR, back up and left to 3rd BR (crux). Steeply up & R to crack (#1 or #2 BD Camelot). Up to top. Natural belay on cams. Scramble off to Left & down Chasm FFA Joe Goding, Amanda Cole 30.03.2003.

*Still at Scoop rocks, opposite Peasant Wall, on the north side of the creek, is a small wall. (this is under "Peasant Wall" Currently on the website)

SUNNY BOY BLOCK

Scoop Rocks Area, Victoria Ranges, Grampians

Located on small west facing block 100m up hill between Billabong Boy block and The Tower. It is just 10m to the left of the cairned track and is visible through the trees. Several boulder problems have been done at the base of this wall.

Sunny Boy 10m 23 (S)

Short but intense face climbing up right side of wall. Three RB's with safe but scary topout. U-bolt lower-off. FFA Neil Monteith & Kent Paterson 13.3.2005

SHERPA ROCKS

15-20 minute walk-in. All day shade. A shady spot with a similar feel to Yesterday Gully at Arapiles. Walk in as for Scoop Rocks from the east end of the northern Gravel Pit. Cross the reed infested creek and turn right (left goes towards Scoop Rocks) at the small cliff line. Follow rock cairns along base of this cliff and uphill before heading right through thick bush following rock cairns to hopefully arrive in wide gully with orange wall on the right and easy grey slabby choss on the left. Routes are on the orange wall and the two dark gullies a little uphill. A bolted rap point is located above Invalid Stout. To get off the routes east of Woodys you either down climb juggy wall left of Woodys or find a suitable rock bollard to rap off.

The Corner 12m 20

Subtle orange Arapilesian corner with a bit of moss about 5m right of Invalid Stout. Ledge at 8m and then overhung jug hauling up small roof crack. Needs a BR. FTRA Neil Monteith 24.1.04

Invalid Stout 15m 20

Crack up subtle arête on right side of entrance to first gully. Easy juggy crack for 5m to high BR. Step right and layback up tenuous crack (crux) to break. Through difficult bulge and onwards to top. U-bolt lower off. FFA Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 23.11.03

****Revenue Road** 17m 21

Great rock in a shaded gully. Start as for Invalid Stout. At first BR step left and up rounded slopers past another three BRs and medium to large SLCDs. Belay off large rock bollards on summit. Crux is reachy. FFA Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 23.11.03

Woodys 13m 17

Orange corner opposite Revenue Road on east side of gully. Trad gear. FFA Kent Paterson, Neil Monteith. 24.1.04

***Best Of Hillwood** 13m 23

Starts 5m right of Woodys about halfway inside the first gully. Flake crack to start leads to horizontal break. Baffling move onto seemingly blank wall (BR) leads to rounded juggy finish (BR). Superb rock quality. FFA Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 24.1.04

***Heaven Is A Truck** 17m 22/23

Start in second small gully 10m east of Invalid Stout. Three ringbolts up steep fingery wall lead to good small/medium cams and wires up face and corner finish. Neat orange rock Paterson, Neil Monteith. 23.11.03

Poison Bait 26 (prev 25) V4+ boulder problem start which has baffled many strong climbers.

Angry Arborist 24+ (prev 23) this has had many short climbers stumped with its long reach move.

Isolation 24 (prev 23) slick rock is hard to climb in hot summer sun!

THE CRATER

Ground Force 14m 20

Kent took a ground fall from the top of this route when his abseil anchor failed. Orange wall just right of Hippy Hippy Ache. Steep start up scoops past three BRs leads to crux traverse left to small corner. Up corner on trad to top. Natural pro belay and scramble off the back. FFA Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 29.6.03

New Routes - Victoria Range



****Isolation** 20m 23

Orange Arapilesian-face hidden on an isolated pinnacle. Located on north-facing overhung wall 100m uphill and west from the western end of The Crater. Thin start then jugs lead left to small flake. Hand traverse right slightly and over crux bulge at end. Three FHs and medium-size natural gear. FFA Neil Monteith, Jacqui Middleton, Kent Paterson. 22.9.03

THE CRATER

***Rush Of Blood To The Head** 10m 26/27

Roof traversing thug fest which gets harder the further you go outwards. Located in small orange cave on north east end of The Crater (Buandik area). Five RBs across ceiling finishing on hanging stalactite "arête". Single U lower off. Malcolm made this look utterly desperate on first ascent so be warned! FFA Malcolm Matheson, Neil Monteith, Jacqui Middleton. 22.2.04

PEASANT WALL

Cliffs tucked away in marshy gully midway between Gravel Pit campground and The Tower. You walk past these on the way into The Tower.

*** Billabong Boy** 10m 24

(So named because the FA had to get water by swimming out into a billabong and got mighty muddy!) Palmistry at its best. Blank corner and right facing layback flake opposite main section of Peasant Wall. Stem up to short crack opening (#1 SLCD) then boldly up with nigh all handholds to FH. Lunge out rightwards with nigh all footholds to thank-god layback flake. Up this easily to ledge and lower-off anchor. FFA Neil Monteith & Nick McKinnon 27.12.2004

***The Big Get-together** 17m 19

(May possibly have been referred to as Jamie's route - which I don't think he got around to ever doing) Enjoyable, well protected, sustained crack climbing up the corner around 5m left of Billabong Boy. Great gear, fun moves. Might get a little dirty after rain. Either belay on ledge and traverse down & R to rap anchors on Billabong boy, or just top out and walk off. FA Joe Goding, Anthony Pattison. 26.03.2005

THE CATACOMBS

A new area hidden away about 200m north west of the Tower. This area contains several quality walls facing in all directions. Quite a bit of new route potential exists.

Wrapped in Pain 30m 24 *

Located on north facing main wall with a large scooped base. Three FH¹s up right leading steep scoops to gain broken crackline. Up this with fiddly pro to committing topout up grey wall. FFA Neil Monteith & Malcolm Matheson May 2004

Maggot Ridden 15m 18

West side of entrance to the Slow Torture Gully which is 50m west of Wrapped in Pain. Worthwhile despite the name. Rounded arête with short crack at start. Bulgy and committing finish with last trad below your feet. FFA Neil Monteith, Gareth Llewellyn & Adam Demmert 5/12/2004

*** Slow Torture** 15m 22

Starts 3m left of Maggot Ridden. Technical face and seam climbing with spaced small trad gear. Great rock. FFA Adam Demmert & Gareth Llewellyn 5/12/2004

The next two routes are located on the left side of a south facing wall that is 50m north of Wrapped in Pain. Either scramble up grey jugs directly opposite Wrapped in Pain or find your way up the gully on east side. The climbs start on a terrace that has three thin cracklines on the left side.

Hudson's Training Regime 15m 20

The right crack. Stick place the first wire(easy to do), step across the gap, then blast up the crack pumping out placing gear. At small roof head up and left. Abseil off fixed sling above Walking the Void. Adam Demmert & Alastair Hudson 24.4.05

*** Walking the Void** 15m 23

The middle crack. Stick place the first wire(easy to do), step across the void, couple of hard moves lead to a rest, then waltz up the crack heading up the left branch where the crack forks and steepens. Pumpy last moves to good jugs. Abseil off fixed sling. Adam Demmert 24/4/05

Skullcracker 20m 22

20m left of Slow Torture. Scoops to flake crack then onwards to inverted ceiling. Place vital small cam in slot and swing downwards on horn jug (FH) and over lip to juggy face. Up this face (two FH¹s and sling horns) to clip-and-go lower-off. Neil Monteith, Adam Demmert, Rich Ham & Jono Schimdt 24.4.2005

New Routes - Victoria Range



Knight's Duel 20m 12

Very featured crack directly opposite Skullcracker with nice jugs to finish. Anita Sharman & Rich Ham 24.4.2005

* **Fire Breathing Dragon** 20m 15

The first crack 1m from the arete on the left side of the wall as you walk into the Slow Torture gully. Tricky roof move with nice crack to finish. Anita Sharman, Rich Ham & Neil Monteith 24.4.2005

THE TOWER

1/4/05: The bouldering around this crag has recently been developed by some of Victoria's better boulderers. They have been raving and drooling at the new problems apparently.

4/1/05: This wall is still pumping out classics. A few harder lines will hopefully fall in the near future including an HB finger-crack project somewhere around the grade 30 mark.

Popeyed is more like grade 21/22 than 23. It has great gear and is a three star line.

*****Iron Arms** 45m 24

Two pitches of pumpy orange wall climbing. Starts 5m left of Popeyed at scoopy overhung wall. 1. ?m (24) Technical climbing up scoop past three FHs leads to jugs and cave rest (medium cams). Blast up reachy wall above past last FH and head left to chain. 2. ?m (20) Step right from chain and follow thin crack heading slightly right to finish up juggy headwall on spaced gear. Rap off sling. Pitch 1 Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 11.5.03. Pitch 2 Neil Monteith. 22.11.03

* **Popeyed Iron Arms Link-up** 15m 22

Best warm-up on the cliff. Start as for Popeyed and traverse left on jugs to the 'cave' on Iron Arms. Finish as for Iron Arms past long blind reach move and FH. FFA Kent Paterson 31.12.2004

Olive Oyl 18m 19

Nice jug hauling spoilt by a dirty halfway ledge. Starts about 80m right of Popeye and in centre of wall on a separate buttress below Kent's bolted Project. Up left facing flake to vegetated ledge. Swing up overhung wall above trending left to bollard belay. Neil Monteith, Jono Schimdt. 11.5.03

Grease Me Up Laddie 70m un-graded

Squeeze into slot under Kent's bolted project (50m right of Popeye). Squirm your way through to the other side of The Tower heading for the light. Finish in the bouldering cave. Neil Monteith, Jono Schimdt. 11.5.03

Goil 11m 22

Small south facing grey wall on boulder about 100m below the north-west end of The Tower. Start is marked by cairn. Up overhung juggy crack to start then onwards up slopers and faint corner with spaced good gear. Crux move in corner near end. Rap off tree leaning against boulder to descend. Neil Monteith, Jono Schimdt. 11.5.03

****Inspector Gadget** 38m 24

A very height dependant grade and a killer line right up the centre of the main wall. 1. 18m (24) Starts up Terror Of The Sea to 2nd BR. Instead of traversing left go straight up past another BR and 2 FHs. Traverse right across slab at last FH to cave and belay on #3½ camalot, big nut and #2 friend. 2. 20m (21/22). Step right from cave and up amazing sustained orange cracked wall. 2 BRs, 1 RB and small-medium trad gear. Double ring lower off (double ropes required). Fantastic rock and moves the entire way. Kent Paterson, Tim Le. 7.2.04

** **BMX Bandits** 20m 24

An awesome faint arête and corner system on super quality rock. An alternate second pitch of Inspector Gadget. Belay in cave as for the end of Inspector Gadget's second pitch. Clip first BR on IG then launch directly up to FH. Battle upwards on slopers, dishes and the occasional ledge past a further two FHs. Finish up small corner (medium cams then BR) to finish at double RB belay/lower-off. FFA Kent Paterson & Jono Schimdt 3.1.2005

* **Toar (pitch two)** 20m 23/24

First pitch is still a closed project (Neil's). Exposed face climbing. For the moment climb first pitch of Inspector Gadget and belay at single giant U-bolt just left of fridge sized bird-poo stained hanging 'death' block (5m right of Terror of the Sea's first pitch). Climb cautiously onto block (good #4 rock in pocket a metre above anchor). From block climb faint crack directly above onto exposed face and up this past two FHs to juggy finish. An alternative which avoids the hanging block is to start as for BMX Bandits for two bolts then traverse left into the crack line. Double rap rings for descent. FFA Neil Monteith 3.1.2005

****Terror Of The Sea** 40m 26

Immaculate rock and a very tough crux. Central line about 10m right of Popeyed. 1. ?m (26) Over rooflet (BR) and up juggy wall to horizontal break and rooflet. Up and left past BR and 2 FHs to

New Routes - Victoria Range



mantle onto ledge. Finish up white marble pockets past BR to belay anchor in cave. 2. ?m (22) swings right past t2 RBs to very exposed prow and natural gear. Step left and up flakes (RB) and surmount rooflet to grey juggy wall. Up this for 6m to rap anchor on ledge. Has been led as one giant pitch. Bring some medium/large cams. Pitch 1 Neil Monteith, Kent Paterson. 31.11.03. Pitch 2 Neil Monteith. 25.1.04

**** See The Light 25m 22**

Great rock, amazing moves and the easiest line up the main wall! Very Taipan-esque. Start as for Terror of the Sea. After first BR traverse left for five metres across horizontal break (BR) to good hand-jam stance. Reachy moves upwards on positive holds gain a character building BR placement. Take a breather on the small ledge then launch rightwards (BR) to mantle onto leftwards sloping ramp. Tackle the final sloping bulge past FH to clip-and-go lower-off anchor placed on lip. Very pumpy. FFA Kent Paterson October 2004

*** King Features 35m 22**

A rising girdle traverse of the wall. Starts on ledge 5m left of Super Mario Bros. Follow left leading line past all the classics to arrive at rap chain on Iron Arms. Full rack of cams required. Neil Monteith & Jono Schmidt 24.4.2005

****Super Mario Bros. 20m 25**

Prominent hanging arête on The Tower about 25m right of Popeyed. Stickclip 3rd FH on face then make a huge lunge from opposite shelf to huecos on the lip. Bouldery leftwards climbing past 2 FHs leads to step right and easier corner crack climbing. Bring ½ to 2 cams and a few wires for this excellent easy crack finish. Rap lower off. Direct start past 2 FHs is an open project. FFA Kent Paterson, Neil Monteith. 22.11.03

Super Gadget 35m 28

Links Super Mario Bro's first pitch into Inspector Gadgets second pitch via five metres of hard new climbing. At SMB's fifth bolt head left on diagonal seam past two FH's to join the grade 23 corner pitch of Inspector Gadget. Malcom forgot the quickdraws and trad rack for the second half of this route and had to commit to a frightening runout to reach the anchors! This is currently the hardest route at the crag. FFA Malcolm Matheson February 2005.

***Red Right Hand 17m 26**

Left leaning overhung crackline about 5m right of Super Mario Bros. Two very hard cruxes on polished perfect rock. A trad classic for those with the skills. Chain lower off. FFA Gareth Llewllin. 17.1.04

Donkey Kong Jnr 10m 23

Located on northeast side of The Tower and just right of giant chossy cave. Novelty sport climbing up blobs holds. One very high first BR and 2 RBs lead to DRB lower off. FFA Kent Paterson, Neil Monteith. 22.2.04

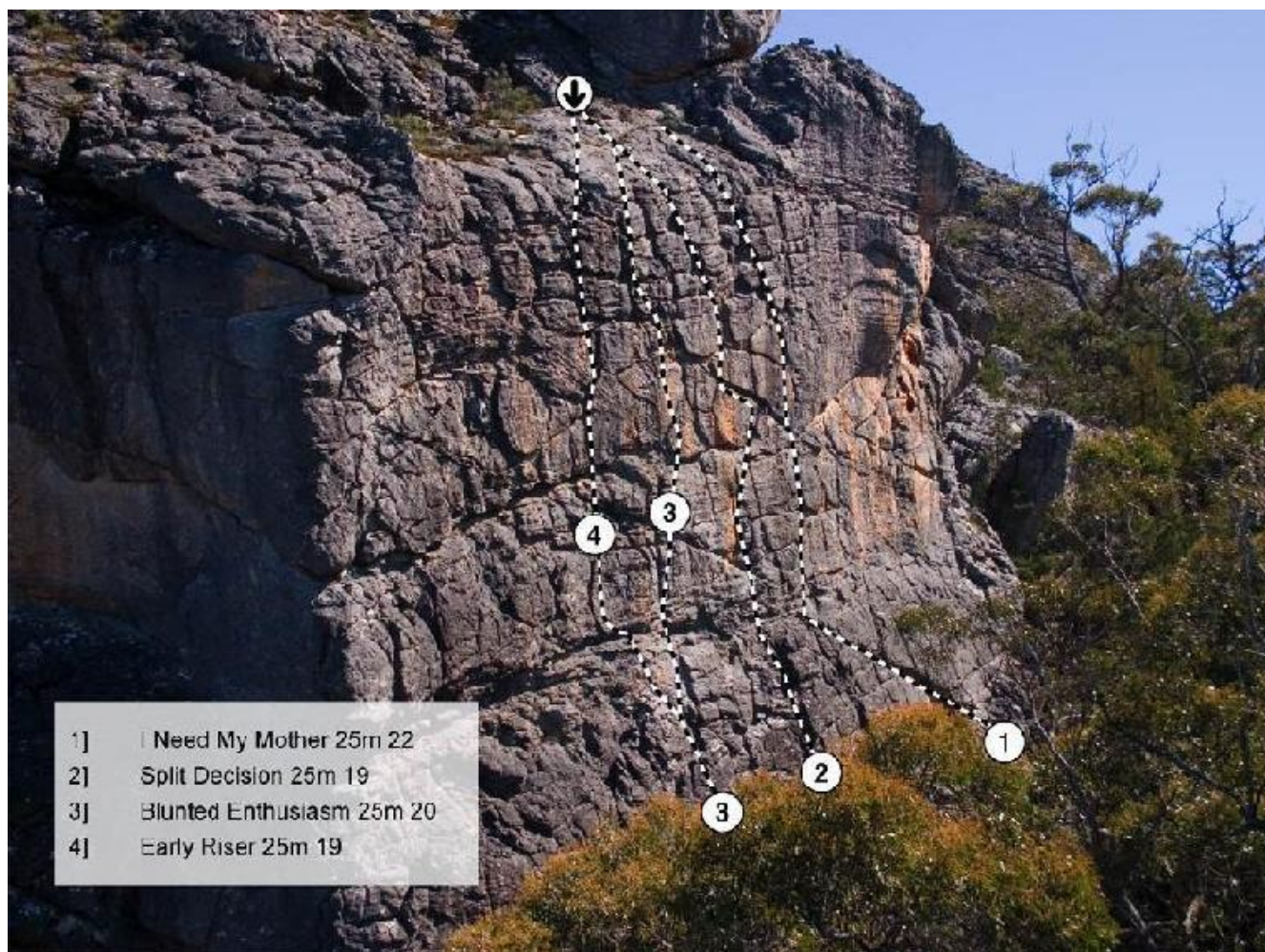
MOTHER BUTTRESS

The south face of this buttress seems to have been ignored in the gold-rush of the 1990's. It is 25m high, featured and steep. Only one good route was previously recorded. A further three more routes could be done in the high teens early 20's. It is located less than 50m left of the Gallery walking track about 100m short of the summit flats.

New Routes - Victoria Range



Topo of Mother Buttress by Neil Monteith



* **Split Decision** 25m 19

Excellent wall climbing. Starts 5m left of I Need My Mother on south facing wall of Mother Buttress. Easily up for five metres to horizontal. Clip BR and layback up little reachy flake to gain line. Weave up jugs, flakes and cracks past a further two BR¹s and lots of good wire placements to slabby top-out. Rap off double u-bolts on ledge (25m). Bolts were added after ground-up first ascent. FFA Neil Monteith & Kent Paterson 14.3.2005

* **Blunted Enthusiasm** 25m 20 (mixed)

Turtle shell wall climbing. A runout sport route or a very safe mixed climb. Starts 5m left of Split Decision. Up easy slab to horizontal. Balance up seam (UB) and then blast up jugs to stance. Take the right bolted line past a further three UB¹s to top. A limited selection of large wires and medium cams supplement the five bolts. Rap off double UBs above Split Decision. FFA Neil Monteith, Adam Demmert, Mark Gould & Boudewijn Docter 15.10.2005

Early Riser 25m 19 (mixed)

Neil had this cleaned and bolted before anyone else got out of bed. An slightly easier trad finish to Blunted Enthusiasm. After the second UB take the left line (RB) to thin crack. Finish up well protected wall about 2m left of Blunted Enthusiasm. FFA Neil Monteith, Adam Demmert 15.10.2005

THE STUDIO

Access via Gallery or The Tower. Either way it takes about 40 minutes.

** **Seven Diamond Experience** 26m 25

Starts 4m left of Oh Hum at overhung black offwidth. Layback up wide crack which quickly turns into handcrack. Five metres from the ground step left from crack onto gorgeous orange bulgy wall. Long moves on jugs lead to FH. Over bulge to second FH. Tenuous layaway moves up orange wall above (optional hard to place wire) lead to easier ground. Head slightly left up wall above to finish

New Routes - Victoria Range



at DRB lower-off. Take a single set of trad gear to fist crack size. FFA Neil Monteith, Malcolm Matheson, Adam Demmert & Mike File 3.4.2005

We also repeated the route Joan (18) and can confirm the one star. It is an excellent route!

Photos of Seven Diamond and Split Decision route can be found [here](#). (Not to mention in *Rock and The Age! Ed*)

THE GALLERY

The Educator 12m 16 (S)

Located on wall opposite the main Gallery cave. Climb obvious right facing wide corner or the face right of the corner passing one UB and two FH's. At the 2nd FH move right to doubly bolt lower off. FFA: Ben Hawthorne and Doug Williams October 2004

ANKLE BITER BOULDER

On the Billywing road just before Buandik there are a collection of boulders right next to the road. I recently belayed a horde of children on the one closest to Buandik. The roadside face is great for instruction and you can belay sitting in the car. I actually used a deckchair. They probably have been climbed on before.

Roadside face 10m Grade 3

Gordon Bedford and the ankle biters.29/9/05

THE FORTRESS

Some new route info from Duanne White. A couple of years back, after a failed attempt at Passport, myself and Karen Hames choofed up a couple of single pitch things on the short wall up and left of the lower camping cave. That is, instead of heading out of the cave up the track to Passport, you go out the opposite end of the overhang, and up the track till you hit the Fortress proper, and then head left past a few really big boulders, past a nice looking orange corner to a large detached block. No idea if they've been done before, but the rock and pro were good, and there were two nice lines up through the rooflet in the centre of the face. The left-hand side was better, but slightly harder at about 17 cf 16 for the left hand side.

GRAHAM'S CREEK

(Grid Ref 122693, 612869) See The Victoria Range guide p68, SW Grampians Interim Climbing Guide p.33. A good new online guide with topos can be found [here](#).

Access: 700m North of Grahams Creek crossing on Harrop track a cairn marks the walking track. Graham's Creek crag (Ant Wall, Good Friday Wall, etc) is the orange north facing wall visible above the tree tops from the road. Diseased Wall is the large grey wall in the distance. Flame Wall is the bright orange block on the right of Diseased Wall beyond Graham's Creek crag.

Follow the marked track for about 5 mins. to an old vehicle track and cairn. Turn right, walk about 20m then left again to continue across the hill to cross creek. The track continues up then across rocky slope, following cairns to crag. First climb encountered is Ants Pants, starting off top of ant mound bouldery start to crack. All climbs are described from this point.

Walking times:

Harrop tk to Graham's creek crag 25-30 min

Harrop tk to The Gorge 35 min.

Harrop tk to Flame Wall 50-60 min

A worthwhile excursion when returning from Flame Wall is to follow down the creek bed and into The Gorge proper and then back up to Good Friday Wall. If the creek is flowing strongly the slippery ramp below Rock Lobster can be avoided by a keyhole on the right leading into an amazing bouldering cave.

GRAHAM'S CREEK - BABY BUTTRESS

A cairn marks the descent of about 30m to the Baby Buttress about 50m before Ants Pants. The climbs here may provide light entertainment. Climbs described from R to L.

Baby Bum 12m 18

Starts 8m L of TC. Up horizontal bulges to seam. Up this to top. Robin Holmes, Steve Chapman, Michael O'Reilly. October 2004

New Routes - Victoria Range



The Crib 10m 22

Starts 4m L of WM at RB. Bouldery start just R of bolt. R to WM's bolt, back L on jugs to crib. Have a lie down and cry, then up easily. Steve Chapman. March 2005-04-10

Where's Mum? 10m 22

Start as for LBDO. At 2m traverse left to bolt. Crank up R to jugs and wire. Easier climbing to top. Steve Chapman, Kaz Anwin. March 2005.

Lachlan's Big Day Out 10m 19

Boulder up to horizontal. Step R into the finger crack and up. Michael O'Reilly, Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes. October 2004

GRAHAM'S CREEK - ANT WALL

Walking track descends from ridge top to hit Ant Wall just up from Ants Pants.(Note: Descent anchors not placed yet. Descent is via a dodgey roped boulder up and right to gully.)

*** Ants Pants** 15m 25

Tread carefully to start off top of termite mound. Bouldery start past fixed wire to crack. Crack to finish. Note: Start can be aided to give sustained crack climbing at about 24. Michael O'Reilly, Robin Holmes, Steve Chapman. October 2004 (Note: not a clean ascent yet - Michael boulder start, Robin & others top section!).

****Elle McFerret** 18m 24

Great climbing on excellent rock. Start 5m L of AP. Boulder start to gain crack (shallow wire at full stretch). Bomber gear and sustained climbing to below roof. Committing pull past bulge via crimps in the black streak to good #2 camalot placement. Steve Chapman, Michael O'Reilly and Robin Holmes October 2004.

***Celebrity Rooter** 20m 22

A fine route marred slightly by a fragile exit. Starts left of EM, 2m left of blunt arête at left end of wall. Follow twin cracks to good holds and gear at steepening. Committing climbing to ledge. Step right to belay and rap anchors. Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes. Sept 2004 Initial escape was off right past dodgy tree and above. Alternatively up big chimney.

GRAHAM'S CREEK - GOOD FRIDAY WALL

This is the orange walls housing Mayday etc.

***The Lying Rodent** 22m 18/19?

Starts at the short splitter finger crack on the small wall just right of the major orange wall. Climb the crack with difficulty to the ledge. Climb over the bulging buttress and the short corner above to the ledge. Organise protection and then traverse left one metre to the arête. This is the right arête of the major orange wall. Climb the arête in a fabulous position to the next ledge. Finish up the crack above, or the arête on the left. Belay on the large ledge. Scramble up to the top and down climb the pinnacle at the back. Michael O'Reilly and Ross Timms 1.10.2004

Battling The Bulge 20m 26** [Mixed]

Slick and sustained old-school Arapiles style line. The central route of the middle buttress. Leap for jug from rock cairn (FH), then up short face to fingercrack. Up this for 6m to slight stance. Swing right across awkward bulging face (FH) to below final seam. Up this which eases to jugs and lower-off anchor. Bring a full rack and some slings to extend runners in the traverse. Descent: Lower-off . FFA Neil Monteith 01-10-2005

*** Ralphs Journey** 16m 24

Start behind clump of callitris 5m R of cleft separating R & L walls. Stick clip FH. Bouldery thin moves to gain crack proper. Up on good finger locks to horizontal. Traverse R 3m and up over bulges. Sustained pump with sinker wires. Steve Chapman, Rob Booth, Adam Demmert, Jackie Bernardi. April 2005. (*Ed: this route looks great*)

Baldy and Fattys big adventure 16m 15

3M left of Ralphs Journey on R side of cleft separating R & L walls, Climb the right side of the cleft to the top. Rob Booth and Ross Timms

Fried Day 20m 23 (project - Rob Booth)

Bolting incomplete. Starts 4 meters right of May day / Burn out behind the detached small pillar (you can see the climb clearly in the topo (see link above)). A few big moves on sketchy feet to nice climbing on the leftward leaning upside-down staircase. FTRA Rob Booth, Steve Chapman 04/2005

**** Burnt Out** 20m 22

Start as for May Day. At MD's traverse left continue straight up corner and start of head wall past

New Routes - Victoria Range



three BR¹s to break, #3 camalot, then continue past one more BR (hard clip) to run it out to the top (possible wires). Walk off top. Adam Demmert, Alastair Hudson 23.4.2005

May Day 25m 18

Climbs the left leaning doglegged crack that goes up the middle of the orange wall (left of the major orange wall). Scramble up the easy slab to the belay ledge just below the major crack. Climb the corner/crack to the horizontal break. Traverse left one metre and then climb the crack above to a tricky mantle onto a dirty ledge. Climb the deep crack/chimney above to the top. Descend via the gully on the left of the cliff.

Kazual 40m 16

An atmospheric adventure up the left side of the main wall. Start behind the conifer 5m R of NS. Up the grey slab then follow easy ramp L to steep orange cracks and through small roof. Excellent view. Steve Chapman, Kaz Anwin. March 2005.

Napalm Sunday 20m 14

(see vic ranges guide)

Flying Possum 20m 21

Start 3m L of Napalm Sunday. Up crack then step L at second horizontal then up shallow corner. Robin Holmes, Steve Chapman. October 2004

About 10m up and left of FP:

Poets Corner 14m 19

Start on ledge under the beautiful but too short orange corner left under roof and on up to the top! Rob Booth and Steve Chapman. March 2005

GRAHAM'S CREEK - GAY WELDERS WALL

About 10m behind Flying Possum is an 8m wall with a few routes, described R to L.

Gay Welders Have Hotter Rods 8m 21

Starts 15m L of Flying Possum. Nice short face climb. #3 wire in sideways protects crux. Go up. Steve Chapman, Ross Timms, Tuesday Phelan. April 2005.

Alex Flashdance 8m 23

Starts 3m L of GWHR. Up over bulge to a long reach from undercling. Alternatively pike left into easy going at 5m or why not just walk around the back. Steve Chapman, Ross Timms. April 2005.

Filthy Girls. 8m 15

(route description to be added - crack?) Tuesday Phelan, Anne Redfern. April 2005.

GRAHAM'S CREEK - THE GORGE

The gorge contains Rock Lobster and Wonga Park (see VRG p68-69) and has been described separately from Good Friday Gully as they are separate cliffs about 100m apart.

***Back in Black** 30m 21

Start 5m R of Wonga Park RFB. Black crack then R to ledge. Clip BR then climb bulges on R to break. Crack to top. Robin Holmes, Steven Wilson 2/4/05

Wonga Park RFB 20m 16

Starts 5m L of BIB(as for Vic Range Guide)

***Rock Lobster** 28m 19

Start off ledge left of WPRFB(as for Vic Range Guide)

GRAHAM'S CREEK - FLAME WALL

Huge west facing cave of orange rock just south of Diseased Wall. Admired by many passing by on the Harrop Track. One hour walk-in up past Graham's Creek climbing areas (Mayday Walls), but as shown in [these photos](#), and [these photos](#), it's worth the walk!

Starsky and Thrutch 10m 16 Wide bulging crack on lower cliff, 10m left of access gully to the left side of Flame Wall. Anita Sharma, Robin Holmes 20/2/05

The Thin Red Line (project)

Bolted project up impressive red face. Steve Chapman

**** Slow Burn** 18m 23

A sustained face, neglected for several months after bolting. The 4m direct start to the ledge has been done but awaits a bolt. In the meantime, start 4m further L beneath The Thin Red Line, where a good wire protects the moves to the ledge. Move 4m R on ledge, then climb the face 3m L of the thin crack (Edge Burner), past 3FH, med-large wires and a #1.75Fr. The high DRB anchor

New Routes - Victoria Range



can be accessed from above. Will Monks, Malcolm Matheson, Gareth Llewelin, Neil Monteith 18.9.05

****Edge Burner 25m 23**

Excellent climbing, bomber protection. Up OOC to 4th FH. Ooze 3m L to horn. Directly up lovely crack and over roof. Continue up to RB lower off. Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes. 5/3/2005.

****Out of Control 25m 24**

Start from back of block (FH) at end of pinnacle. Up corner to ledge. Step R then up bulges to rest. Step up to FH then monkey R on unexpected buckets. Turn the roof at scoop. Swing R to finish up white water wash then slightly L to RB lower off (note: near 50m lower off to top of pinnacle - tie rope end to belay FH) Robin Holmes, Steve Chapman etc. 20/2/05

**** Flaming Lips 27m 26 (S)**

Big time cave climbing up right side of the orange wave. Scramble in from the left side onto belay ledge 15m from the ground. Belay off single FH. Head up and right easily for 8m to small ledge and UB. Take a breath and start climbing up and out past eight bolts in incredible positions to finish in small cave. Hard moves are at third and sixth bolts. Good foot jams, knee bars and leg slots can be found for recovery all the way up. Use a 60m rope for lower-off and tie a knot in the end! FFA Neil Monteith, Mike File & Kent Paterson 12.3.2005

GRAHAM'S CREEK - DISEASED WALL

See Victoria Range guide p69 and South Western Grampians (Gariwerd) Interim Climbing Guide p33. One of the largest cliffs in the Vic Range.

Spinal Column (VRG p.69)

Neil Monteith reports: "Loose and mossy with many lurking death blocks. Can be lead easily in two long pitches. Shaded almost all day. Closer to 80m in height."

Welder's Butt Crack 45m 12

Climbs wall above the 'operating theatre' on Diseased Wall. Starts 25m left of the finish of Spinal Column. Very juggy corner leads to ledge and optional belay. Keep plodding upwards to finish up steep arête and summit glory. Walk off and descend down western side. Gay Welders Union 23.4.2005

Accidental Incision During Surgery (AIDS) 105m 21

(1) 40m 12. Starts 12m right of Spinal Column. Wander up middle of wall on good jugs to small belay stance. Some loose rock. **(2)** 30m 13. Continue up face to belay ledge level with Operating Theatre (this is the same belay point at the end of Spinal Column). Walk 20m left behind block to Operating Theatre Ledge. **(3)** 20m 21. Hard start up behind tree and good moves up middle of face on slopers and small edges. Continue up to small ledge. **(4)** 15m 19. Head up overhanging wall to large horizontal break then traverse right to arête and up. Harder direct finish is possible but needs bolt. To descend walk back and left across rock until you can climb down a few metres, then walk left towards treed gully looking for cairn at top of small wall. Scramble down short face and then down scrub gully to bottom. Jono Schmidt (pitch 1,2,4 Rich Ham (pitch 3) 23.4.2005

THE FLATIRON

Website Editor's Note: after the following guide to this area was written, it has been discovered that some of the following routes are repeats of routes established in the early 90s. The mess is yet to be sorted out, so here's the modern names and grades!

25-30 min, walk-in, 50 min if water works track access is closed. Faces North so makes for a good winter crag. Protection from light rain.

*** Iron Awe 31m 21?**

Named by (and stolen from!) Rob. The amazing LH rising traverse starting at ground level 15m from the start of the cliff and finishing at the DBB above Extreme Ironing has now been climbed in its' entirety. The climb is well protected and climbs excellent rock. Take all of your cams, and some of your mate's! It is yet to receive a continuous ascent. The grade of pitch 2 is the subject of some debate in the range of 20-22. **1)** (20m 21) Climb the well protected rising diagonal crack/ledge system awkwardly to the DBB above Black Iron. **2)** (25m 21?) Traverse L along break to Iron Maiden DBB. Eats cams up to #3Fr. **3)** (6m 14) Keep traversing L to Extreme Ironing DBB. Rap off. (1) Michael O'Reilly, Rob Booth 4-01-06 (2) Will Monks, Kevin Lindorff 12/6/05. (3) Steve Chapman, Rob Booth Apr/May 05.

Swarf 9m 23?

Needs to be swept up. Up right hand crack and across left to DB Lower Off FA Steve Chapman, Rob Booth May 05

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Black Iron 8m 19/20

Nice climbing but too short, just power up the black streak to the DBA. The second pitch looks quite a test piece... HB? FFA Rob Booth, Steve Chapman May 05

4. Iron Lady 15m 19

Up the right leaning crack system over the technical bulge and up to the R H traverse to DBA above Black Iron FA Rob Booth, Steve Chapman, Tuesday Phelan May 05

7.*Iron Maiden** 15m 24

Straight up the lovely orange corner on perfect Grampians rock to DBA Technically only 23 but quite a bridging and lay backing test piece! As for the second pitch I'm not sure what the number of the beast will be! Possibly 28? FA Rob Booth, Steve FFA Chapman, Robin Holmes, Steve Wilson

***Extreme Ironing** 18m 25

Easy start before you clip the B and hit the technical layback and go into the nice hand jamb before the finishing jugs Etc FFA Steve Chapman, Rob Booth

Sand Iron 18m 23

The horrible sandy crack system below the crux crack of IS FTRA Rob Booth, Steve Chapman May 05

****Iron Side** 18m 23

Just keeps getting harder, after the easy start, climb the crack system on the left of the arête to the mantle and stance just before clipping the bolt, don't pump out too much holding the horizontal under cling before stepping right to position yourself for the fingertip layback (crux) to slap the jug with a few more moves to the DBB FFA Steve Chapman, Rob Booth, Karin Anwin

13.*New Wave Old Hat 18m 14

The original climb on the cliff FA.

Part 2 of the cliff - (Left of the major corner of NWOH)

18. Pet Willow Iron 15m 15

Right crack finishing left at lower off. FA Jevon Hardware, Maria Lastra May 05

19. Iron Filings 15m 19

Good old style climbing. The middle of three cracks right of gray buttress. FA Robin Holmes, Steven Wilson. April 05

20.Angle Iron 15m 20

Nice climb for gym bunnies. The left corner crack then carefully step right at blocky section then up to lower off as for Iron Filing. FA Steven Wilson, Robin Holmes. April 05

21. *Pumping Iron 28m 22

1. (20) Start 3m L of AI heading up right edge of gray buttress. At steepening step right to follow thin crack through bulge. Up left then carefully up through finger like rocks to belay on ledge (bolt + wire). **2.** (22) Small wires/RP's to get started. Blast up strenuous crack with bomber gear. Hanging belay on left (large wires). FFA Robin Holmes (1 &2) Steven Wilson, Tuesday Phelan (pitch 1) May 05

25. *Jaffle Iron 15m 16

(Better than it looks!) Up corner over bulge and left onto ledge FA Rob Booth, Ross Timms, Tuesday Phelan, May 05

27. Ironear 15m 15

Start 1m right of the crack of Iron Lung on the crazed wall up to obvious RH of the three cracks and stay in it till the top. FA Rob Booth, Ross Timms May 05

28. *Iron Lung 15m 19

Up the easy corner and crack above FA Rob Booth, Ross Timms May 05

29. *Irony 16m 20

(the irony is it's a better climb than the original line strait up Iron Lung!) Up Iron Lung for aprox 6m and left below bulge and up obvious LH crack FA Steven Wilson Tuesday Phelan May 05

*** Against the Tide** 16 65m

At the left hand end of the overhang above the lower tier is a groove in a left facing corner. (*Approx 80m L of Irony - Ed*) The route starts below and just to the right of this corner. It takes the corner and the wide continuation crack above. A traditional line and a classic struggle in an area of steep modern climbs. **1)** (16 25m) Deceptive moves up and to the left lead to a good rest before the corner proper. The corner is quickly despatched, unless it's raining, to reach some awkward moves. Gain the belay ledge above by some thin moves up and a final move to the right. **2)** (11 40m) A classic chimney pitch leads to the second trial. A few quick moves lead up a wall to a large chockstone blocking the way. Bravely wrestle the chockstone and move up to the final task. The wide crack now leans ominously outwards, just as the end is in sight. Climb up into the niche and make bold moves to gain the belay ledge above. A final scramble through the cave-

New Routes - Victoria Range



crack above and the top of the cliff is yours... best climbed on a sunny afternoon to appreciate the golden glow from the final cave. Pitch 1, Robin Holmes (date?), Pitch 2, Alastair Hudson (12/6/05)

Flatiron - The Upper Tier

(The ledge above the corner of Iron Lung)

35. Permanent Press 12m 15

A good old-fashioned corner complete with loose rocks dirt and bushes the first 5m is excellent climbing though! FA Rob Booth, Ross Timms May 05

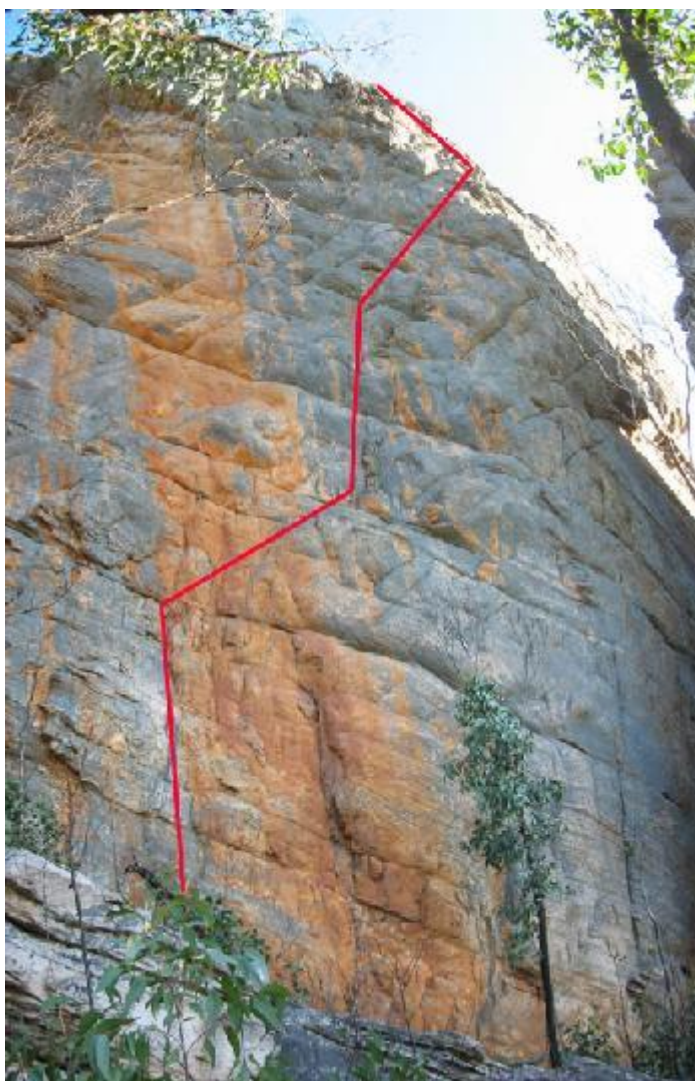
Flatiron - The Pinnacles

Keep walking left (uphill) along the base from Against the Tide for about 100m, you'll scramble across a gully to reach two 25m tall square-top pinnacles with more good rock.

Topo of Summit Fever, by Jono Schmidt. This route is on the left hand pinnacle, the right hand pinnacle is just visible in this photo.

* Summit Fever 25m 20

Excellent steep climbing on quality rock. Climb the line of least resistance 6m left of the arete and then traverse up and right with no protection (crux) and follow the obvious right leading diagonal line to the arete and the top. Scramble off the back of the wall. FFA Jono Schmidt & James Pfrunder 12/06/05 (Ed: this route is likely a repeat of an early 90s ascent which appeared in Argus then gathered dust due to the dearth of Vic Range guidebooks since then - recorded here until everything's sorted out)



Flatiron Surrounds

Follow the Flatiron access description in The Victoria Range guide (p70), except follow the cliff (south side) right until you get to the gully, then turn left and go up into saddle over looking the next creek valley (GR 104664).

Lost in Deep Space 20m Gr 14

Start about 30m north of saddle at orange left facing corner. Cairned. 20m. Steeply up corner to overhang. Step right then back left to large sloping ledge. Move left along ledge to shallow right leading diagonal cracks and up. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh 18/02/2005

Beyond Gravity 40m Gr 12

Start about 50m left and around the corner from Lost in Deep Space halfway up the large sloping terrace. 40m. Up wall, passing the left hand end of the orange overhang at half height. James McIntosh, Glen Donohue 18/02/2005

CURIOSITY CRAG

Jill Gara's excellent [mini-guide](#) is now available for free download (1.02 MB).

GENERAL: Curiosity Crag is situated in an amphitheatre 100m before crossing the creek at Slander Gully. The only previously recorded climb here appears to be Night Owl Theatre grade14!! "probably under graded" by Peter Treby in 1985 (Vic Ranges Guide). The first pitch of Grease Nipples 20 (Mentz Tempest Guide) passes through the right-hand corner of the amphitheatre. Around a dozen new routes have been recorded in 2003. The area has potential for more new

New Routes - Victoria Range



routes and some bouldering. Bolts, where used, are stainless steel to current best practice. Some gear is required on most routes. Rock quality varies from average to exceptional. The climbs on the orange wall A all offer sustained pleasure, while those on B wall provide a variety of challenges on rock that is steeper and thinner than appearances suggest. Around the corner, Robin's 22 provides steep gym climbing and more potential for harder stuff. The crag is very well sheltered from the sun and wind and climbing is possible on the steeper south facing orange wall in most weather conditions. Access is very easy and while the atmosphere is relaxing, the climbing should get your pulse pumping.

ACCESS: To get to Curiosity Crag follow the directions for Slander Gully. At the crest of the hill on the 4WD track (100m before the creek at Slander Gully) a double cairn marks the walking track heading uphill and right for 200m to the crag. If the Waterworks Track is open, walking time is only a few minutes. (See map.)

Descent: Rap anchors have been placed at the top of The Generator Route and The Extension Lead on Lower Curiosity Wall. The anchor on the top of The Extension Lead also services Bug Powder Dust. Rap anchors have also been placed at the top of Moonlight Wall above Gerni To The Centre Of The Earth.

To get off other climbs walk back to descent track. Route 10 has a double ring to lower off and access to the top of B wall is an easy scramble (see topo - argus sep 03)

1. Big Nose 12m 18

Start at the nose at left end of left wall of grotto, (where the descent track meets the wall). Committing moves up thin crack, move right and up overhang for five metres, veer left with easier climbing to the top. Continuing straight up makes for a more sustained finish. Bold. Rob Booth, Jill Gara, & Ross Timms. 19.04.03

2. Sticky Beak 12m 16/17

Climb past loose block up shallow crack. Start in middle of second small tor down from Bug Powder Dust. Jill Gara, Micheal O'Reilly, Tuesday Phelan. March 2003

3. Bird's Nest Soup 10m 14

Start towards the back of the high ledge. Straight up block on jugs. Access to ledge from descent gully. Tuesday Phelan, Jill Gara. January 2003

I'm Black and I'm Proud 12m 20

Variant finish to Bug Powder Dust. Start as for 2nd pitch of BPD. Climb the left side of the pale central streak direct through top bulge. Swing right to top out. Blackness courtesy of the previous week's Vicparks "controlled burn". Will Monks, Nic Cotton, Cameron Barrett, Micheal O'Reilly 26/10/03

4. *Bug Powder Dust 27m 18

Starts just left of grey arête. Follow 2 BRs to ledge (possible belay). Straight up past another BR for 6m then step right to finish up juggy arête. Jill Gara, Michael O'Reilly, Robin Holmes. Feb 2003

5. *The Generator Route 12m 22

Nice warm up for the following 3 routes, 6m right of Bug Powder Dust, 3 BRs to ledge and DBB. 2nd pitch possible: 14m (23) from the ledge hard move then nice climbing up the right side of the arête. Or continue up Bug Powder Dust. Rob Booth, Steve Chapman. May 2003

*** The Extension Lead** 12m 18 [sports route]

Starts on halfway ledge 2m right of Bug Powder. Clip the carrot on Bug Powder Dust and follow the 3FHs up right on the arête to DBB. (25m rap) Rob Booth, Ross Timms March '06

6. **Screaming Trees 25m 26

Up past two FH's and wires to horizontal break. Arrange gear then right up to third FH. Thin moves over bulge bring some relief and good pro in seam. More hard moves over small roof to buckets. Traverse left to belay. Steve Chapman and Steven Wilson October 2003

*** Screaming Trees Variant** 12m 21

First part of Screaming Trees past 2 FH and wires to horizontal break, traverse left to the anchors on The Generator.

7. **Night Owl Theatre 18

(This is an edited version of the original description) Hal Todd would be proud of this. The Del Monte of climbing. The original route on the cliff. 1. 30m Start up the line which splits the wall. At the overhang, traverse right and finish up the right-hand crack. Peter Treby, Andrew Webb, Neil Barr. 10.6.85.

Deadly Earnest 35m 17

A scary girdle traverse on friable rock. **1)** 10m Up sandy cleft R of Night Owl Theatre with no runners. **2)** 25m (crux) Step across left, around arete, gingerly down and continue left to welcome ledge. Gary Lyons, Gordon Bedford, Nick Tapp 31.01.93

New Routes - Victoria Range



8. ***Careful With That Axe, Liam 30m 23

Sustained face climbing. Starts 5m right of Night Owl Theatre. Directly up the wall past 6 FHs. Medium wires and cams protect the shallow grey corner heading right to last FH. Launch up left on jugs. Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes. February 2003

*** Cat Power 36m 24

A clever link up that takes in the best parts of two great routes. A single rope will suffice if you take a few 60cm draws. Start up Careful With That Axe to 4th FH. Traverse right 5m past FH to join Curiosity. Continue up past 2 more FH's to break. Back L for 2m then finish up past FH as for Curiosity. Medium cams protect the grey bulges. Endurance climbing on great rock. Michael O'Reilly, Steve Chapman March'06.

9. **Curiosity Killed The Black Feral Cat 30m 25

Starts 5m right of Careful With That Axe.. Take medium cams. The crux can be solved left or right of the 2nd FH. Sustained climbing past 3 more FHs to horizontal break. Move 1m left and up over grey bulge on crimps. Head diagonally right to final FH and the happy jugs. Steve Chapman, Brian Gray. May 2003

* Catatonia 32m 23

Starts 8m right of Curiosity on the black streak. Up to 2nd FH taking heed of the flexible block on the left. Head left then back right above 2nd FH to gain a rest in the grey corner. Swing around right of the arête to FH and up to the long blunt grey arête above. Climbing is often just left of the arête with adequate gear on the arête proper. Steve Chapman, Jill Gara. March'06

10. The Lynx Effect 30m 23

Starts in the chasm 15m right of Curiosity Killed The Black Feral Cat. Up the steep fracture for 8m and finger traverse leftwards 3m to rest on the grey arête (belay possible to eliminate drag). Absorbing climbing directly up the arête to the highest point on the buttress. Double up on small wires, a few small cams are handy, despite appearances, protection is very good. Steve Chapman, Michael O'Reilly, Jill Gara. July 2003

*Cat Scratch Fever 30m 23

Follow Lynx Effect (no.10) for 8m to where it traverses left. Arrange gear and launch straight up on crimps. Watch your back on the wall behind if you fall. Continue directly up grey wall. Steve Chapman, Robin Holmes. September 2003

11. Separation Anxiety 15m 20

Start in middle of black wall at the top of the grotto under the orange overhang. Up edges on slab to stance below overhang, veer right then exit left to rap anchor. Rob Booth, Jill Gara. 19.04.03

* Ab Slab 15m 23 [sports route]

Follow line of rings on slab to the right of Separation Anxiety. Brendon and Chris Abernethy Feb.'04

Curiosity Crag - Moonlight Wall

Valentine's Day Massacre 25m 22

(An entrant for the worst of the worst route.) Crappy line, dodgy rock, ground fall potential, it's all here. Starts left of corner on the track before Paler Shade Of White just past the big log.

1. 17m (22) Unprotected hardish moves on dodgy holds lead to jugs at overhang where the gear is not good and the moss begins. Continue to belay at big ledge. Smell the roses. 2. 8m (21) Continue up left side of orange wall via a most awkward slopy mantle off the deck. Steve Chapman, Jill Gara. (alts) 14.2.04

12. A Paler Shade Of White 22m 21

Bold climbing left-wards along the rising traverse, starts at the weakness 6m left of Traditional Arrangement. Double ropes are useful. A small wire can be found, low down, two thirds along the traverse. Continue up the easy arête at the end of the traverse to finish at the large ledge. From the belay it is possible to scramble off by climbing around to the left and then up to the top of the cliff. Or a short pitch, across and down right, to the start of routes 14, 15, 16. Michael O'Reilly, Jill Gara, Robin Holmes. March 2003

13. Traditional Arrangement 13m 18

Follow the right leaning hand/fist crack starting in the middle of the wall at ground level. Harder than it looks. Finishes on the large ledge at half-height. Michael O'Reilly, Jill Gara, Robin Holmes. February 2003

The following routes start on the ledge at half height. They can be reached by climbing Traditional Arrangement or from the start of (Route13 - Traditional Arrangement on the arête).

New Routes - Victoria Range



Gerni To The Centre Of The Earth 12m 22

Will clean up with traffic. Starts on the ledge at FA 2m left of Controlled Burn. Up to shallow corner to rap anchor. Steve Chapman, Rob Booth 15.04.06

*** Controlled Burn** 14m 22

Starts below bolt in the middle of face, climb left past bolt then right to gear placement. Committing climbing to top on slopy bulges. Take small cams and wires. Robin Holmes, Steve Chapman. Oct.'03

16. *Moonlight Mile 11m 20

Starts approx. 2/3m right of Project (Bolt), and 4m left of the right arête. Climb directly up the wall, to the left end of the small ledge at half height. Follow the short corner/flake and exciting wall above. Michael O'Reilly, Jill Gara. March 2003

15. *Emotional Rescue 12m 22

Starts as for Moonlight Mile. Climb upwards diagonally right to the right end of the small ledge at half height. Follow the horizontal breaks to the small overlap/rooflet near the right arête. Committing moves directly up the wall above (crux). Michael O'Reilly, Jill Gara. March 2003

14. *Tarzan's Swing 16m 22

(Sport route.) Starts below carrot 3m right of arête. Follow grey wall and arête past RBs to lower off. Robin Homes, Steve Chapman. March 2003

Densei 15m 24

Right side of scoops, 4m right of Tarzan Swing. 6 RBs to DRB lower off. Ramon Francis, Philip Bogenschütz, Brendon Abernethy. 26.10.03

The Organiser 12m 25

15m right of Tarzan Swing are scoops, left side of these. 5 RBs to DRB lower off. Brendon Abernethy 26.10.03

SLANDER GULLY

*****Twentieth Century Black Feral Cat** 18

I climbed the classic slab route Twentieth Century Black Feral Cat at Slander Gully for the first time late last year. While the climbing is not technically difficult, the climb is extremely runout. In the Mentz/Tempest 'Grampians Selected Climbs' guidebook, the route description includes (in part): "Pro is a wee bit sparse, but it turns up just when you need it most". This is incorrect. Around the crux moves, I was 5 to 6 metres above my last runners - facing an 11 to 12 metre fall! There was no other protection available. Has anyone climbed the route recently and found adequate protection? The original description, published in Kieran Loughran's The Victoria Range guidebook, includes the comment: "The crux is poorly protected ..". This is a far more accurate description of the available protection. Between my last runners and the crux, there seems to be a broken hold - towards the left side of the route. This hold may have been a placement for protection in the past. If that were true, the route would be as described by Mentz/Tempest. This route now is serious, as a fall from the crux, or from the dubious rock just above the crux, would be a very long fall. Prospective leaders need to start the route aware of this poor protection. At the top of the route, I threaded a very long sling for an abseil station (approx 40m). This sling was in good condition when placed (October 2002). The thread used seemed good, but the sling does not have a ring/shackle to protect it when the rope is pulled through. A future party should replace the sling with a section of rope, and add rings or shackles as the abseil attachment. Michael O'Reilly

BROWN'S CREEK GORGE

South Western Grampians (Gariwerd) Interim Climbing Guide p99. Continue a further 15 minutes further up the creek from New Romantic to an orange buttress on right, about 160m downstream from the start of the gorge. Gr 089520. Total access time around 50 minutes. (There is another orange buttress about 60m further upstream, that is, about 100m from the start of the gorge.)

Hawkerboy 25m Gr 15

Starts about 15m right of orange overhangs. Up right facing corner to large ledge at third height. Continue up corner, passing overhang by stepping left onto ledge then back into corner. Glen Donohue, James McIntosh 26/3/2005