

Burnley Bouldering Walls A Guidebook

August 2011 Edition



- Free to all
- Open 24/7
- Under cover
- Now lighted at night
- Artificial rock climbing walls - plywood walls with resin holds
- Shock absorbing rubber matting
- 2km From Melbourne CBD
- Easy access by public transport
- Pet friendly
- Family friendly
- Beginner friendly

transurban

CityLink


Parks
VICTORIA



History

In 1993, Chris Shepherd conceived the idea of having a long traverse wall near the CBD. The wall became very famous for its pumpy line. In 2003, risk management concerns highlighted the need for the route to be removed. Transurban (manager of CityLink) offered to sponsor the construction of a new facility, and Parks Victoria offered the location; inside McConchie Reserve in Burnley. A Burnley Project Manager position on the VCC (Victorian Climbing Club) committee was created to oversee the project, and a project team was assembled to commence the planning process.

The VCC Burnley Project Manager rallied the climbing community to create a series of construction teams, leveraging skills climbers had developed in their day jobs. Construction began on January 31st, 2006, and the first routes appeared on April 29th, 2006. Regular internet posts on progress were viewed by other organisations, which came forward and offered their support. Four months and more than 130 volunteers later, the three walls were opened to the public.

Burnley had a vibrant scene, attracting large numbers of visitors at all times of the day and on any given day of the week. Since the original donations that were vital to get the project off the ground, Burnley has continued to receive support in terms of time, funding and materials. In 2008 all three walls were re-set with new routes, greatly assisted by an additional community grant from Parks Victoria.

Almost exactly 4 years later, on the 27th April 2010, the walls were stripped of routes and the area around them was closed while strengthening works were carried out on the beams and piers supporting the freeway.

On the 30th of July 2011, works on the freeway supports were finalised and the walls reset. With all new problems (and new lights for those evening sessions) we hope that Burnley once again becomes a hub of the climbing community.

Management

Ongoing management and maintenance of Burnley is still undertaken by an association comprising of local climbers, the VCC and Parks Victoria. If you encounter any problems at Burnley such as damage or spinning holds then please drop the Burnley team an email at:

burnleybouldering@vicclimb.org.au

Occasionally larger scale wall maintenance projects are undertaken such as cleaning, repair or route setting and these rely on additional volunteers to make them happen. If you would like to put your name down as a volunteer to lend a hand then please drop the team a note on the same email address.

For more information on The Victorian Climbing Club (VCC) or to get in touch with the club committee visit their website at:

www.vicclimb.org.au

McConchie Reserve

The Burnley Bouldering Walls are built within McConchie Reserve, an inner city reserve managed by Parks Victoria. The facility and surrounding McConchie Reserve are here for your enjoyment. You can help keep the reserve healthy and ensure it remains an enjoyable and safe place to visit by following these simple guidelines:

- Take your rubbish home with you
- Keep your dog on a leash at all times
- Clean up after your pets
- All native plants and animals in the reserve are protected and must not be disturbed. Do not remove or introduce plants or animals to the reserve.

For more information about McConchie Reserve or any of Victoria's magnificent parks, bays and waterways, contact the Parks Victoria Information Centre on **13 19 63** or visit:

www.parkweb.vic.gov.au

How to get there

General Location

The Bouldering walls are located under the CityLink / Monash Freeway where it runs parallel to the Yarra in Burnley (near Richmond), approximately 2km from Melbourne CBD. A detailed location map is on the following page. The Melways reference is 2M 2B

By Car

From Swan Street Richmond, turn into Coppin St on the KFC side of the road. Go to the end and turn left into Barkly Avenue. Pass through the Parks Victoria entranceway and park your vehicle. Wander down the gravel driveway towards the river, turn right and walk across the floating pontoon bridge, and after approximately 100m you're there!

By Bicycle

Follow the Yarra Trail to Burnley. When you find yourself opposite Herring Island, and in between Coppin St and Mary St on the map, you're there. The obvious place to park your bike is against the wire fence. If this isn't possible then please use common sense and make sure it's a safe distance back from the walls and out of people's way.

By Tram **Tram 78 along Church St gets you the closest.**

Tram 78: Get off as close as possible to the intersection of Church St and Yorkshire St. Walk east along Yorkshire St in the direction of Mary St. Turn right into Mary St, walk through the Pedestrian subway and turn left when you hit the river. Walk for 200m or so and you're there.

Tram 70: Head along Swan St Richmond and get off at the intersection of Swan St and Coppin St. Turn left at the end into Barkly Ave, and go through the Parks Vic entranceway. Walk down the gravel driveway and turn right when you hit the river. Walk across the floating pontoon bridge and Burnley is on your right.

By Train

Take the train to Burnley station (The following lines will take you there: Lilydale, Belgrave, & Glen Waverley.) Walk along Madden Grove in the direction of Melbourne CBD. Turn left into Rooney St. at the dogleg in the road, head left through the Parks Victoria entrance gates. Wander down the gravel driveway towards the river, turn right and walk across the floating pontoon bridge, and after approximately 100m you're there!

When to Go

The Burnley Bouldering Walls are located in a free open public space so are accessible for climbing 24/7. Weekends and evenings inevitably tend to be busier, particularly through the summer months, however the walls get visitors at all times. The area is now artificially lit so climbing is no longer restricted to daylight hours so the only restriction is your enthusiasm!

The freeway overhead provides protection from the rain in the form of a massive roof. During winter months, when it is cooler, the crowds tend to congregate during the afternoon when a little sun creeps through to warm the area. In summer the freeway roof cap keeps conditions nice and cool; though the left hand end of the 45 wall might have the sun hitting it in the evenings (approx. 6pm).

What to Bring

Gear

As far as gear is concerned just bring the normal gear you would take for a bouldering session at the crag:

- Climbing shoes
- Chalk
- Food and drink – bring it in, bring it out
- Something warm and windproof in the winter
- Bouldering mat

If you are new to bouldering or climbing and don't have any specialist gear you can still enjoy bouldering at Burnley. Just wear some unrestrictive sports clothes and running shoes.

Dogs / Pets

You are welcome to bring your dog but please keep it under control and off the rubber mats. Clean up any mess and take it with you. You can attach your dog's leash to the wire fencing while you boulder.

Friends and family

There is a picnic table and the ground is flat so it's fine to bring them along however young children need to be supervised as the area is bordered by water on both sides.

Other Necessities

Toilets

The nearest public toilets are about a 5 minute walk located in Barkly Gardens in Mary St, near the corner of Barkly Avenue.

Food & Fuel

The nearest food stores and petrol station are up on Swan Street which is only a 2min drive or a 10min walk. There is also a servo for fuel or snacks out on Church Street which is a similar distance away. The Swan Hotel on the corner of Church and Swan Streets is about your closest venue for a post-session pint.

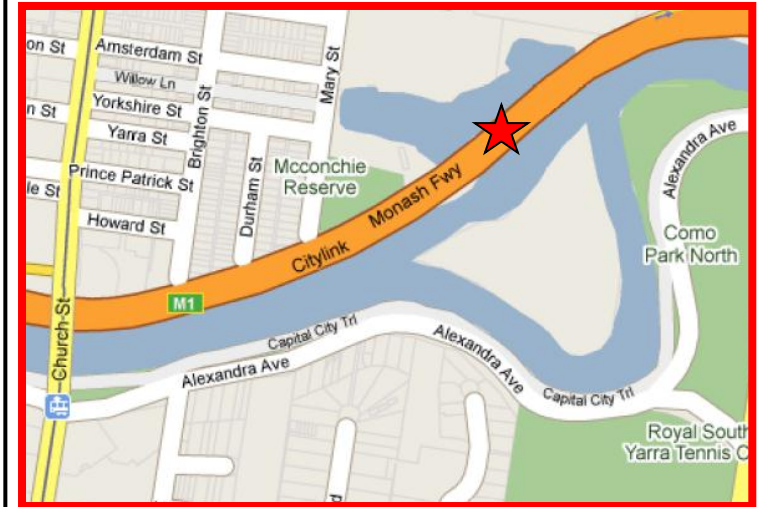
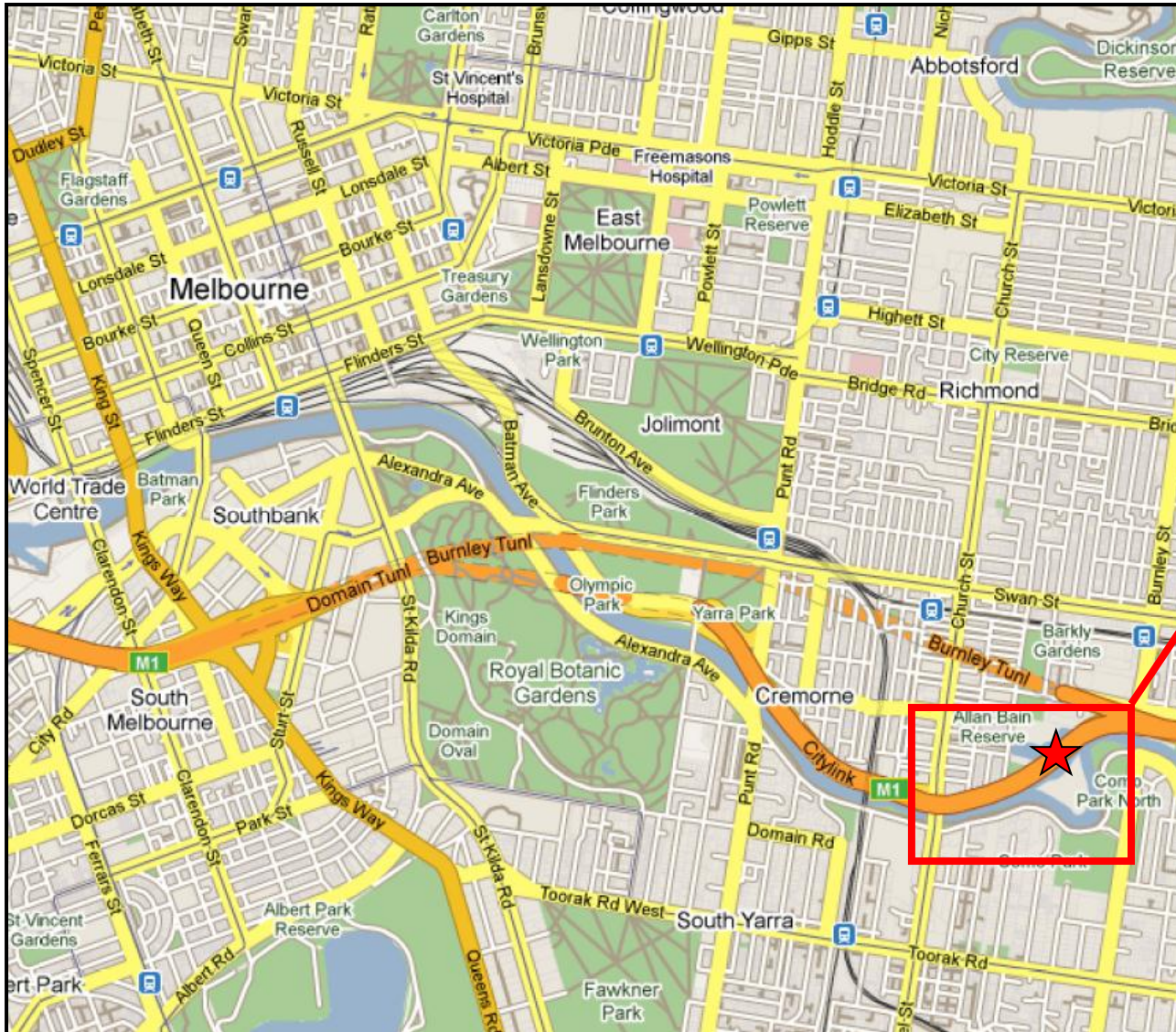
Public Telephone

The nearest public telephone is at 596 Church Street.

In Case of Emergency

In an emergency, dial 000 and specify your location is McConchie Reserve.
Access is via the southern end of Mary Street, Burnley, Melway reference 2M 2B.

Location Map



Infinite Holds,
Endless possibilities...
www.infiniteholds.com.au



A Beginners Guide

What is bouldering?

Bouldering is a form of rock climbing where the climber stays close to the ground. It usually involves climbing across or up a short distance. The level of difficulty can range from easy to very demanding. A grading number is used to give climbers an indication of how hard each route is, the higher the grade number the harder the route. Bouldering is a fun and social sport and a great way to increase fitness and build strength.

How to use the bouldering wall

Follow the colours

The objective is to follow a coloured route from one edge of a wall to the other. If one colour alone is too difficult then try combining two or more colours at a time.

Where to start?

Located at the end of each of the walls is an information board describing the routes and their grades. Start on the vertical Wall 1, which offers beginner and intermediate routes. For more challenging routes progress to Wall 2 with its 30° overhang, and Wall 3 that has a 45° overhang.

Always use a spotter

Have a friend 'spot' you while you climb. Spotting is not catching; the spotter's purpose is to keep the climber's body upright during a fall by giving the shoulders a light push, to ensure that they land on their feet. A spotter's hands should be behind the climber's shoulders, with fingers pointing outwards. Do not have your fingers pointing upwards towards the ceiling, as you are likely to injure your own hands during the climber's fall.

Etiquette

Give way to climbers on the wall. If someone is already climbing, be sure to wait until they've passed the section of wall you wish to use before starting to climb.

Safe climbers are happy climbers

Bouldering is a relatively safe sport. However, there are risks and potential for injury. Accidents can and do occur. To ensure your bouldering experience is safe and enjoyable please abide by the following safety precautions:

- Always climb with a spotter
- Be aware of others climbing around you
- Do not climb alone, particularly at night
- Do not climb onto the top of the walls

Rock climbing – where to go next?

Buying some climbing shoes and a chalk bag will greatly improve your performance and enjoyment of bouldering and can be purchased from one Melbourne's many climbing gyms or outdoor stores.

Visiting one of Melbourne's commercially run climbing gyms is a great next step. This will not only broaden your climbing experience but will provide you with the opportunity of trying out longer climbs and learning how to climb higher routes in safety using a rope and harness.

Ready to rock? Victoria is home to some superb, world class locations for rock climbing on real rock. These include Mt Arapiles, the Grampians National Park and Mt Buffalo National Park. There are some great crags within an hour's drive of Melbourne CBD. To try your hand at climbing on real rock, contact the Victorian Climbing Club (VCC) via their website at:

www.vicclimb.org.au.

General Behaviour and Courtesy

Our sport is very much on show to the public at this location. Let's show Melbourne what a great climbing community we have by exhibiting suitable behaviour when using the facility.

Burnley is not a supervised facility. You will need to take responsibility for your own personal safety (as you would at the crag). Always use a spotter, and avoid being in the area alone after dark.

Please help keep the area clean. Keep all rubbish contained in your bag and take it with you when you leave. (Rubbish left lying on the ground during your session will almost certainly be picked up by the breeze and dumped in the river – not good).

Please wear footwear when climbing on the walls (no bare feet!)

Please do not add or remove holds from the walls

Burnley will essentially present an opportunity to newcomers to try rock climbing. Please be welcoming of newcomers, and offer them some tips when you can. More participants in our sport leads to more stability for the gyms and climbing stores, which means good things for you, the climber.

When in conversation with newcomers, assist in guiding them into our world. Let them know that Melbourne also offers climbing gyms that can cater for children's parties etc, and the location of the climbing stores.

Be mindful that there are some people living very close to our site. They have been there longer than our site has, and have assisted in the construction of the bouldering walls, and kept a protective eye on them when we are not there. We are very grateful to these people and hope you will be also.

Be respectful that nearby parking is in residential streets. Help minimise the impact to local residents by using alternative means of transport where possible. We are located right next to the Yarra Trail (bike path). Cycling to Burnley is a great way to warm up for your session on the wall! If you plan to drive, refer to the 'How to Get There' section regarding where to park.