

Here is all the information that the Victorian Climbing Club has about Mount Buffalo, we know that there are routes missing but hopefully this up-date will help ferret them out (no pun intended).

If you can assist with any further information then please contact the V.C.C.

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The page numbers in the erratum mean the page that the correction etc is to be made while the page numbers in the new route section indicate the start of that particular areas description.

SPECIAL THANKS to Rob Cowan.

Cover photo: Mike Law on the first ascent of Madame La Guillotine (now known as Bureaucrat Direct Start). Photo by Bill Andrews.

## *Erratum, Corrections & Beta*

This up-date has been made available to keep the Mount Buffalo Guide Book relevant.

If you are aware of any mistakes or errors, if you are aware of any changes that require some extra beta, have done new routes and haven't yet written them up then please let the V.C.C. know the details and we will up-date the website mentioned below.

This update was published as an insert in the November 2000 edition of ARGUS the V.C.C. newsletter and was made available as a free download from the V.C.C. website: [www.vicclimb.org.au](http://www.vicclimb.org.au) in Adobe portable document format.

### **P. 11**

As it says in the text on P.12 Ewbank and John Worrall made the second ascent of *Fuhrer* in December 1968. Stone and Bull made the third ascent.

### **P. 24**

*Noblesse Oblige*. The grade is very subjective; some have suggested that it should be 15. The crux pitches (4 & 5) are totally unprotected. Pitches 7 & 8 are more like rope stretching 50m each. This route is a big undertaking for a moderate route. Start early and take lots of water. There is no shade, and the climb is in full sun from about 8am. A fun route. However, egress from the top involves unpleasant scrambling in loose moss and scrub. It can be improved by adding a ninth pitch.

**9. 20m** Traverse right to a clean water runnel. Up.

From here scrub bash and scramble about 50m up the edge of the slab above, then push right through trees to pick up the walking track to Mackey's Lookout.

A much better access is as follows: On the drive up, the slabs can be seen from the vicinity of Eurobin Falls, make a note of which gully is below them. Park a car at Mackey's Lookout. Get another car and driver to ferry the climbing party down the mountain to the gully that crosses the road a short distance above the Eurobin Falls car park. This gully contains a waterfall in winter

and has a car lay-by near it. Follow the RHS of the gully. About 3/4 hour you brings up right at the start of the climb. This is faster, less scrubby and less dangerous than the guidebook access.

#### **P. 25**

The map should obviously be labelled "North Buffalo Slabs (Mt McLeod)" not McCleod.

#### **P. 32**

*Dream.* First pitch is awful and has one poor bolt runner plus a bolt belay (backed up by a 6" tube). Maybe it has been re-bolted.

#### **P. 41**

*Diamond Dogs.* Serious first pitch has seen large falls. Second belay is mostly hanging from old bolt and dubious blade peg making first moves of third pitch quite serious.

#### **P. 43**

*Manhattan Project.* On the first ascent, from the 3rd bolt Ian Anger continued directly up onto the traverse rather than following *Diamond Dogs Direct Start* to the first belay of *Diamond Dogs*.

#### **P. 45**

*Bureaucrat Direct Start.* Date of FA Jan/Feb 1975.

#### **P. 47**

*Autocrat.* Should read "cross its left wall and traverse left horizontally to the crack"

#### **P. 49**

*The Establishment Dyke Finish.* This is not 23. The traverse to the dyke is 21. Between *Peroxide Blonde* and *They Dance Alone* for difficulty.

#### **P. 61**

North Wall access "Option 2" is to abseil down near *Defender of the Faith*. The three raps are: 1. (from top) 55m down and right (facing in) through trees to 2BB chain anchor (and 2BR backups) on good ledge (*Defender of the Faith* anchor 3). 2. 47m down and slightly right (facing in) to 2BB chain anchor on small narrow ledge (*Rough Justice* anchor 2). 3. 52m rap to the very end of your stretched 50m rope to ground (swing left to touch base on *Führer* ledge).

#### **P. 62**

*Defender of the Faith.* The 2BB on *Defender of*

*the Faith* anchor 2 are now in poor condition and require immediate replacement. Interim options are to carry a #4 SLCD (not needed elsewhere on the climb) or back up the belay with the 2BR a few metres up pitch 3.

Pitch 1 40m (not 45m) ... "and up (BR) to a stance belay (PR,1BB)"

Pitch 2 40m (not 37m) ... "to a one person stance (poor 2BB,#4SLCD)"

Pitch 3 45m (not 50m) ... "Up (2BR) and left around overhang. Up the crack system (BR) to exit right (PR,BR) onto a good ledge (2BB chain, 2BR).

Carry 6 bolt brackets minimum. Note: BRs are from 1970 ascent.

#### **P. 65**

On the North Wall topo the climb numbered 19 is referred to as *Raining Pleasure* which is not described in the text or index. It should be *Crimes of Passion*.

#### **P. 73**

*Tripping The Light Fantastic.* Reg Marron and Matt Dunstan took a lot of aid out of this in the mid-70's making it 17,M3 (?). This somehow got missed in the Lindorff/Boreham guide and no one picked it up. No one is sure what exactly was eliminated but most of the isolated points were.

#### **P. 75**

*Prince Albert Route.*

Pitch 1 "... past 2 BR and up to a ledge. Traverse right and belay."

Pitch 2 as described can be eliminated (if desired) by either 2a. heading up flake directly to anchor 3. or 2b continuing the pitch 1 traverse a further 10m to anchor 2.

Pitch 3 "Up & left across slab and flakes to left end of wide ledge below headwall, 6m left of Prince Albert Route Variant 3a."

Pitch 4 "Up chockstone filled wide crack past BR to stance (BR). Up (BR) to stance then right at horizontal break and up (BR).

Pitch 5 is optional, used to break rope drag. The abseil anchor is 2BR take a 2m long tape to abseil from.

**P. 80**

*Eureka Uprising* is wrong in several spots on the topo, the written description is OK though.

**P. 96**

*The North West Face of the Sentinel*. Grade history is as follows. FA (pitons) M2, FNA (nuts) M4, FFA 20

**P. 97**

The *Crack Corner* first ascent details should read "Rein Kamar, Peter Watling. May 1976

**P. 104**

The abseil from the top of the *Maharajah* summit is 25m - one rope OK.

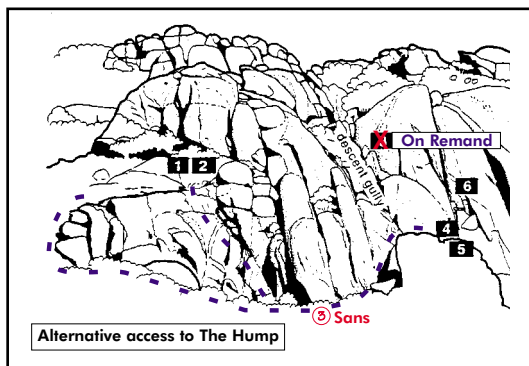
**P. 114**

*Calliope Variant*. Peter Jacob seconded this during the first ascent of *Calliope*. It may be more direct, but it is definitely not better.

**P. 119**

The original descent to the Hump (as shown in the guide) provides access to a climb that starts above the short wall at the bottom of the descent.

It was thought that *Sans* started in this descent gully. *Sans* actually starts lower down and to the right (facing out, see topo). The number three now stands for *On Remand* (see new routes). The topo now shows the alternative descents and where the climb *Sans* actually starts.



**P. 120**

The Hump from the northwest diagram  
The gully marked Descent Gully provides access to *Beg, Borrow or Steal*. This gully ends in

a short wall that is difficult to climb up, and down, especially in the wet. An alternative descent gully scrambled down slabs below *Cross Purposes*, passed through a col and then made its way down a boulder-choked gully. See alternatives marked on topo above.

**P. 126**

A bit of inconsistency in the description of where *Old Hands* starts. The description of *Vapour Trail* is correct, *Old Hands* starts 2-3m right of *Vapour Trail*.

**P. 137**

The route *Hand Crank To Start* is listed in the index but the route description is not in the guide since the route is an inadvertent repeat of *The Mouse's Tail*. The text was changed but not the index, ie to find *The Mouse's Tail* look under *Hand Crank To Start* in the index.

**P. 137**

*Miss Otis Regrets*. This is in the Wall of China Gully, starting just above the finish of *Warlord*.

**P. 143**

*Parrot On A Stick*. This should be described as the right edge of the buttress just left of *Profanities*. The description was based on the layout of the climbs from Tempest's interim guide (1978). *Dick Selector* is a shallow corner 65m down left of *Pintle*. *Selwyn's Slag Heap* is nice corner down left of *Dick Selector*. If *Dick Selector* is the corner just right of what is now *Crowlands* then *Selwyn's Slag Heap* is the corner just to the left of *Crowlands*. If wrong, there's a new route staring everyone in the face.

**P. 143**

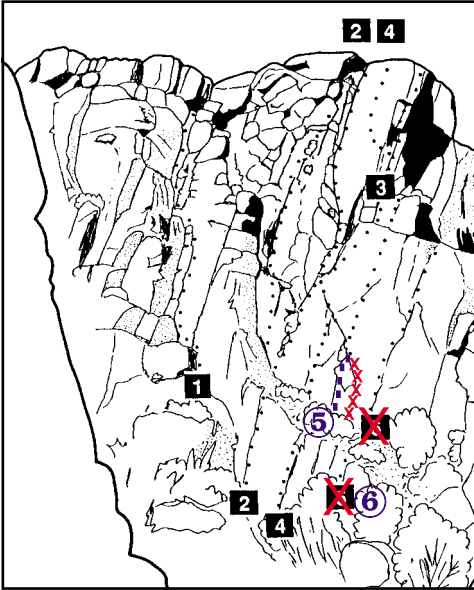
The Wall Of China. The access notes are for approaching *Miss Otis Regrets*. If you follow the directions given here you will end up at the foot of *Short Sharp Shocked*, not *The Dyke Next Door*.

**P. 145**

*The China Way*. If the above supposition is correct then the line shown for *The China Way* is incorrect. *The China Way* may start 9m up *Mod-Diff* (route 2). The line as shown does not reflect the description except for the first 10m.

**P. 144**

The starts of *Oscar* and *Lucinda* are incorrectly



marked. *Lucinda* (route 5) starts from the ledge 9m up (scrambled to from the left). The first pitch is quite direct and starts further left along the ledge from where originally indicated. The start marked as route 6 is *Oscar*, as shown above.

#### P.151

*Mammoth* first ascent details should include "Alternate Leads".

## New Routes

# THE GORGE - SOUTH SIDE

### P. 31 GLASS GULLY

#### Dream Direct Finish 30m? 22

An alternative and even better 2nd pitch to *Dream*. Up as for the start of *Dream* 2nd pitch but where *Dream* heads right, continue up the corner to a brilliant hand traverse right past 4BRs to rejoin the original. Kevin Lindorff and Scott Camps. Jan 1998

#### Sleepless Nights 25m 25

The arête right of *High Voltage*. Either scramble

down around the *High Voltage* boulder or abseil the route. Climb the arête past 5 bolts. Robert Cowan Derek Rempe. April 1996

### P. 33 SUMMIT RIM

#### Silver Shadow 30m 22

Start as for *Home James*. Instead of traversing right climb straight up. One bolt on the slab and two in the roof. Rob Cowan, Luke Fitzridge, Ryan Butler. January 2000

#### Banana Milkshakes Rule 30m 23

Slab the face left of *Banana Blasé*. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. February 2000

### P. 34 CHAOS GULLY

#### ★Stick Jumping Hippy Logic 95m 22

Fix 35m rope from large tree 6m left of *A Cluttered Room* for later retreat. The twin horned buttress seen to the north is the top of the climb. To reach this, abseil into the gully, traverse across and up, then clamber onto double horned buttress. Abseil the climb. Single rope abseil from slings around horn (in direction of park entrance road) to 2BB, then two double rope abseils down clean slab to ground. Ten hangers required for the anchors and the climb.  
**1. 35m** (22) Up and right (2BR) then slab (4BR) passing bush on left to 2BB in scoop. **2. 40m** (18) Slab then rib (4BR) past bush to 2BB. **3. 20m** (19) Wall above belay (BR) to ledge then narrow rib (BR, med SLCD) to summit. Wade Stevens, Tim Day, Craig Roberts. 3.1.99

### P. 35 MUSHROOM ROCK AND ENVIRONS

#### Turtles all the Way Down 30m 19

Companion route for *Teflon Tortoise*. Abseil 30m from trees as for *Teflon Tortoise* to semi hanging belay (1BB, large SLCD) at base of "tongue" of rock, 6m right of start of *Teflon Tortoise*. Up (3BR, natural pro) to belay on ledge. (pro to left of cave). Tim Day, Wade Stevens. 31.12.98

### P. 52 BEOWULF AND ENVIRONS

Route below *Iron Maiden* 50m, 24/25 (Abseil a full rope length from the tree at the top of *Iron Maiden*), From DBB at base of a closed corner, stem up, step left into next corner, continue in a similar vein to near the top of this and make a

hard move left around the arete onto the slab. Up the slab to belay as for *Iron Maiden*. 7BRs. Malcolm (HB) Matherson and Kevin Lindorff, Jan 1998

Two slab routes below *Beowulf* /above *Dressed to Kill* at about 26 that were done by HB.

## P. 52 SEWER WALL

### **Buffly ?m 21/22**

15 metres below the tunnel on Sewer Wall walk out away from the cliff above on to a thin pinnacle/buttruss. Abseil 70 metres off the front of the pinnacle or 15m left, looking out, then scramble around top the front and abseil 50 metres off a tree. **1. ?m (21)** Climb the crack/corner system for about 10 metres until the arête proper is reached. Climb the arête past 3 bolt runners to a nice ledge. **2. 35m (22)** Slab past 2 bolt runners to the tree. Scramble around right and climb *Vampire Slayer* or scramble up the corner to the abseil bolts. John Schwardfeger and Rob Cowan (alt) 2.4.00

### **Vampire Slayer 24**

See *Buffly* description. Abseil left looking out off the bolts. Climb the thin crack past two bolt runners. RPs and small stoppers protect the crack. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. 2.4.00

### **Sicilian Dragon 45m 20**

Excellent and varied climbing; unusual for its views of the falls. Access: *Cassia Corner* (when seen from atop North Wall of Gorge) is prominent corner significantly down and left of Sewer Wall. It has wide, jagged, right leaning crack in its left wall. From Sewer Wall, follow pipe past short drop to where it veers down into gorge. Nearby is big, white gum above very short drop. A tiny abseil off this (which can be avoided by careful scramble nearby) brings you to small, scrubby dish. Cross this, then scramble down left to small, shady alcove. Anchor: small SLCD in corner and bollard 5m uphill (very long slings useful). Abseil into corner. Takes wide crack in left face. Start on arête. **1. 30m** Up. Step right to gain crack. Good #4 SLCD below easy off-width at end of pitch (which can be laybacked at the grade). Short run-out can be avoided with some (very) large gear. **2. 15m** From ledge stretch right across corner to crack (clip BR on unclimbed direct as a high runner if you wish). Up. Easily

climbed as a single pitch. Julian Devery, Craig Smith. (alt) February 1997

## P. 54 OVAL AREA

### **Wicked Solitaire Variant 25m 20**

Up the arête right of the original first pitch. A much better first pitch than the original. Sport climbers beware the protection is adequate with just three bolts!! Robert Cowan, John Schwardfeger, Martin Kell. December 1996

## P. 56 THE WATERFALL AREA - SOUTH SIDE

### **Gail Who? 35m 21**

From the belay ledge of *Fantasies of Gail* slab up left to reach the broken face. Climb past two bolts to exit right. The exit can be a bit tricky. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. 2.4.00

Route below *Fantasies of Gail*, 30m? 26 Starting off a sloping ledge beneath a prominent 30 degree overhanging hand crack. Malcolm (HB) Matherson. January 1998

## THE GORGE - NORTH SIDE

## P. 61 THE NORTH WALL

### **She Blast Integral 200m 23,A1**

Link-up of various routes on North Wall of Gorge to produce a high-quality free climb. **1-2 (22,A1)** As for *She*. You can 'French-free' cruxy bulge on pitch two by pulling on the BR, or 'Australian-free' it (hard). **3. 45m** (free crux) New linkup pitch-*She Blast*. Right into shallow grooves of *Clouded Queen* (small SLCDs, wires). Traverse through quadruple BB of *Clouded Queen*, then right and up arête (medium-large SLCDs). **4-6** As for pitch seven of *Ozymandias Original Route*, then follow *Free Blast* and *Rats in Paradise*. Stefan Eberhard (1,3,6), Julie Styles (2,4,5) 26.2.95

### **Ozymandias Variant A1**

Arguably an improvement on *Ozymandias Direct*. Connect top of sixth pitch of *Ozymandias* to top of sixth pitch of *Ozymandias Direct* (two BRs, hooks, stick). FA (A3, one BR) Stefan Eberhard (solo) November 1993. John Fantini added second BR and soloed route at A1 in January 1995

## P.74 FALSE MODESTY PINNACLE AND ENVIRONS

### Vogue 25m 22

On the face opposite the *False Modesty* Pinnacle is a thin hand crack. Climb the crack to a ledge. Escape right. Robert Cowan, Rick Webb, Ben Ching, Derek Rempe. January 1997

### McCalls 45m 20

20m right of *Vogue* is a thin crack into a roof and a beautiful hand crack above. Climb this until the crack finishes on the ledge. Climb the short face/crack above. Robert Cowan, Ben Ching. January 1997

## RESERVOIR ENVIRONS

### P. 82 WOMBAT ROCKS

#### Alfisti Direct Finish 20m 24

As for *Alfisti* then instead of heading left at the overlap, step up to a BR then right and up to the top. Kevin Lindorff and Jeremy Boreham. 1.3.98

## LAKE CATANI ENVIRONS

### P. 88 VIEWPOINT AREA

Two routes by Scott Camps at 21 & 22 respectively that are yet to be written up.

### P. 91 CHALWELL GALLERIES

#### Sticky Fingers ?m 23

Slab past 3/4 bolts on the right hand side of the Glacé Buttress. Rob Cowan, Kevin Lindorff, John Schwardfeger. December 1999

?? 22 Kevin Lindorff did something on the front of the buttress between two other climbs

## THE CATHEDRAL

### P. 104

#### Side Show 35m 23/24

Climb the first crack of *Twin Cracks* to the first bolt. Step on the face and let the show begin. Slide past 5 bolts. Rap chains on top. FFA Robert Cowan, John Schwardfeger, Martin Kell. March 1996

#### Sunrunner 25m 21

Abseil from the chains left of *The Viking* looking out to a large ledge (approx 25 metres down). Sail up the arête right of *The Viking* past three bolts. When the climbing eases more left for the second wave. Again sail past three bolts. FFA Robert Cowan, John Schwardfeger, Martin Kell. March 1996

#### Fatigue 35m 25

Start from the ledge just below the start of *Chronic*. Climb the face between *Chronic* and *The Dreaming*. Bob Cowan and Michael Friedrichs. April 1999

#### ★Caravanserai 20m 21

(Def: Pleasant resting place near Sultans trade route.) Start just left of *Sultan* below BR. Past BR to dyke. Easily diagonally up dyke to pocket. Direct to top past 2 BRs. Walk off left or finish up *Sultan*. Dayle Gilliat, Michael Woodrow. 8.2.97

#### Cowboy Logic 30m 23

Up Maharajah LHV Start, then stretch left as for Ravi Variant. Continue left (BR) to arête, then up right side of flake. Slab (two BRs) to belay platform on Maharajah. Finish as for unknown new route (three or four BRs; grade 21?) to summit chains. 25m rap off back. Tim Day, Wade Stevens. 5.1.99

## THE HUMP

### P. 119

#### White Tails 25m 24

The face left of *Red Backs*. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. January 1999

#### Cows with Guns 50m 20

Start as for *Bum Steer*. Move right past bolts.

Up through scoop to top. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. January 1999

### **Chickens in Choppers 50m 19**

Next buttress left facing out from *Cows with Guns*. Start from the chock stone in the crack. Traverse left to the arête and up. John Schwardfeger and Rob Cowan. January 1999

### **Dr Worm 70m 23**

Best approached from above. Rap chains on top and at end of first pitch. Start approximately 4 metres right of *They Might Be Giants*, looking out. **1. 35m** (23) Climb the edgey face past bolts to the belay. **2. 35m** (17) Follow the line of bolts to the top. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. January 1999

### **Chunky 15m 23**

The chunky arête next to *Dr Worm*. Rap into the gully left of *Dr Worm* looking out. Climb the chunky arête past several bolts. Harder than it looks. Rob Cowan and John Schwardfeger. January 1999

## **WASHOUT WALL**

This climb is on 'new' outcrop called Washout Wall-very limited potential and relatively difficult to locate. Follow Dicksons Falls track southeast for about 1km. Turn left (northeast) and walk down south bank of the Washout (a relatively major creek) for about 1km to small snow plain on tributary entering from southeast. From this, head northeast up on to crest of ridge overlooking Buckland Valley. Follow crest of ridge northeast for about 600m, keeping to west side to skirt outcrops. Washout Wall is at about GR 826309 on Buckland 1:25 000 map sheet, faces northwest, and is visible from both the Cathedral and, nearer at hand, the Castle.

### **Head for the Hills 30m 15**

Walk easily down below outcrop from its upper right end for about 50m. Scramble up left to terrace just right of attractive crack system. Up short, easy chimney to foot of first crack. Step left from top of this and climb thin, Left leaning crack to horizontal crack at its top. Right to gully. Geoff Gledhill, Chris Baxter. 8.2.97

## **THE HORN ENVIRONS**

### **P. 133 DREAMWORLD**

### **Two Old Plonkers 17m 18**

Starts in the middle of the wall right of *Unnamed* 2. Up to a prominent hold at half height. Move right and up. 2 BR's. Ian Anger, Peter Watling. March 1992

### **Deshevelled 17m 20**

The right hand side of the same wall, below a series of vague flutings. Up past 2 BR's. Ian Anger, Peter Watling. March 1992

### **P. 137 THE HORN**

### **Pilsener 14m 14**

Starts as for *German Beer Drinking Favourites*. Up slab between cracks to overlap. Hand traverse left to arete, and up steep arete. Nick Coward, Peter Watling. January 1995

### **Angels Of The Abyss 18m 17**

The left side of *The Parrot On A Stick* buttress. Start at the lowest point. Boulder the clean slab to good holds. Move right to crack and a good wire. Continue up on good holds to shoulder and medium TCU's. From the flake continue up the easy mossy slab. Dayle Gilliat.

### **Stone The crows 20m 20**

Pull onto slab 1m right of *Hoi Polloi's* second pitch, move right past a bolt, up to clip second bolt with a wire. Up. Clip bolt on *Hoi Polloi* from jugs then up. James McIntosh, Wayne Maher. 29.12.96

### **Paparazzi Nazi 15m 23**

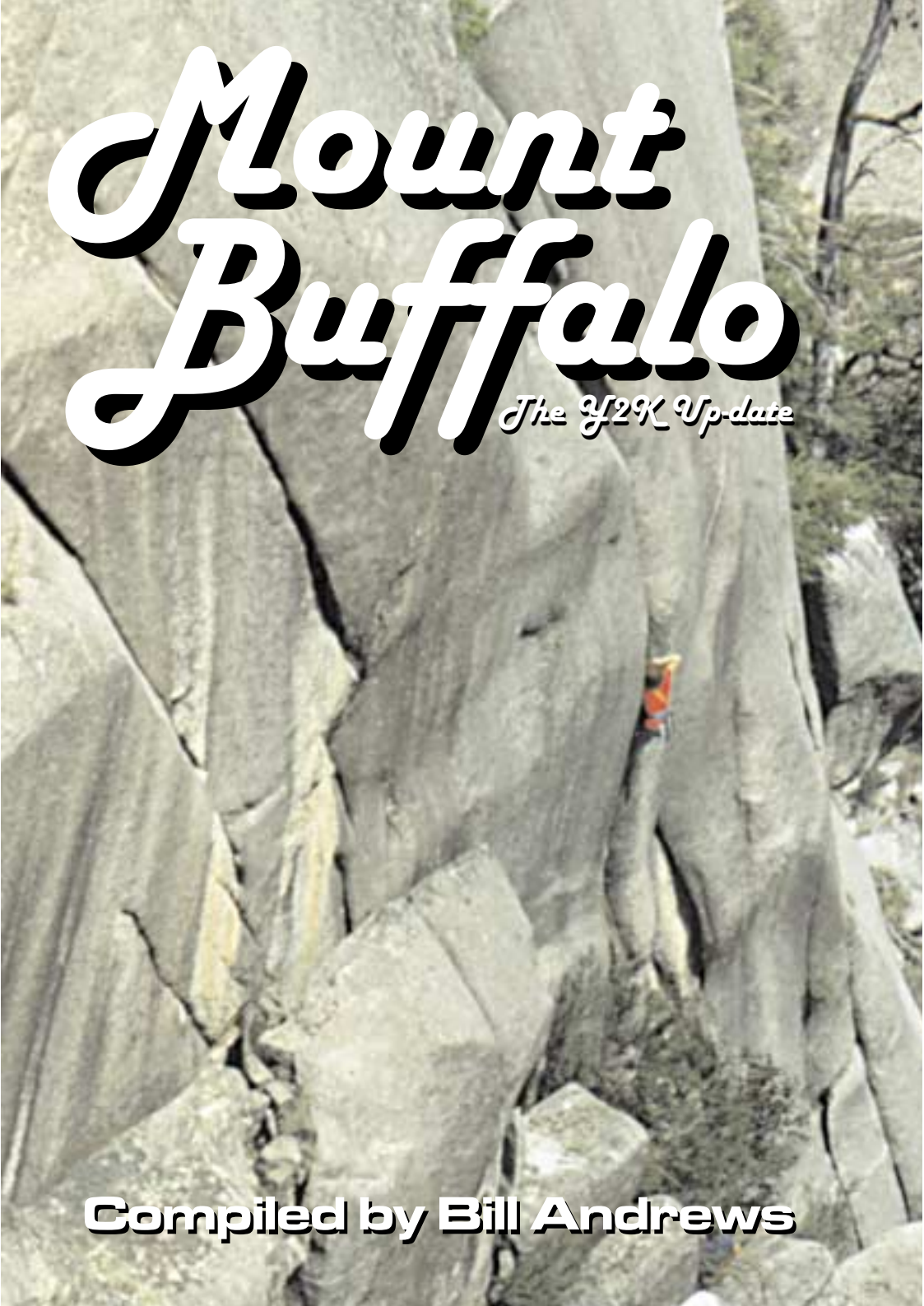
The arete right of *Glitteratti*, 4FHs. Kevin Lindorff, Malcolm (HB) Matherson. Jan 1998

## **BACK WALL**

### **P. 146**

### **Pie & Sauce 135m 17**

Start on buttress directly behind *Vodka And Caviar*. **1. 30m** Chimney, then up right to trees. **2. 30m** (crux) Up left to flake, then up buttress. **3. 20m** Up onto block then traverse 15m left to belay under off-width roof. **4 & 5. 55m**. As for *Quartz Route*. Peter Watling, James McIntosh. 3.1.97



# *Mount Buffalo*

*The 2024 Update*

**Compiled by Bill Andrews**