A photograph of a rock climber on a steep, grey rock face. The climber is positioned in the upper middle of the frame, leaning back and reaching for a hold. Below them, a belayer stands on a rock ledge, looking up at the climber. The background is filled with tall, thin trees and a hazy sky. The overall scene is set in a forested area.

The Definitive MOUNT PILOT Climbing Guide

**A rock climbing guide for
Mount Pilot, NE Victoria.**

**Compiled by
Paul Martin**

Cover photo: John Lewis (leading) and Jason Owen on the FCA of On The Edge (20)

History

Giles Bradbury and Iain Sedgman drove across from Buffalo in January 1976 and sussed the place out and also investigated Beechworth area crags. However the Mount Pilot Recreation Reserve is not incredibly rich in rock climbing history. The area has been used for many years as an abseiling training venue for the army, SES and various recreational groups. The 'Eastern Victoria Climbing Guide' by the VCC, vaguely covered this area, however the section on Mount Pilot contains little or no information, maps or written descriptions as to the location of climbs. As bad as the Mount Pilot section of this guide is, it does give one an insight into who has climbed in the area and when. Martin Lama, Iain Sedgman, Peter Cunningham, Peter Watson and no doubt many others briefly visited this area, and climbed what can only be assumed as chimneys or obvious crack lines. Of note in the climbing history of Mount Pilot is the route 39 Cents of Glory (20), on the Eastern Slabs which stands out as being quite a nice long and committing slab route, put up by Iain Sedgman (22.7.79) after both Peter Watson and Peter Cunningham failed on it, which to my knowledge has only been repeated by Derek Rempe (also solo) in the hope of a bold new route. This shows that interest was not confined to the cracks and chimneys. There is also a large boulder visible on the drive in to the area that has a very steep bolted (aid?) route on its eastern face. To this day, no one knows who put this route up.

Routes such as Yeddonba Wall and Auto Pilot are long time classic easy routes that were undoubtedly among the first lines to

be climbed here. Since I cannot find any route descriptions from the Eastern Victoria Guide for these routes, the names given will suffice.

Being spoiled by the superb granite of nearby Mount Buffalo, John Swerdverger, Robert Cowan and Matt Roper, the true pioneers of this area, dismissed Mount Pilot as a pile of choss. Fortunately they decided to explore further and stumbled across some excellent areas such as The Bakery.

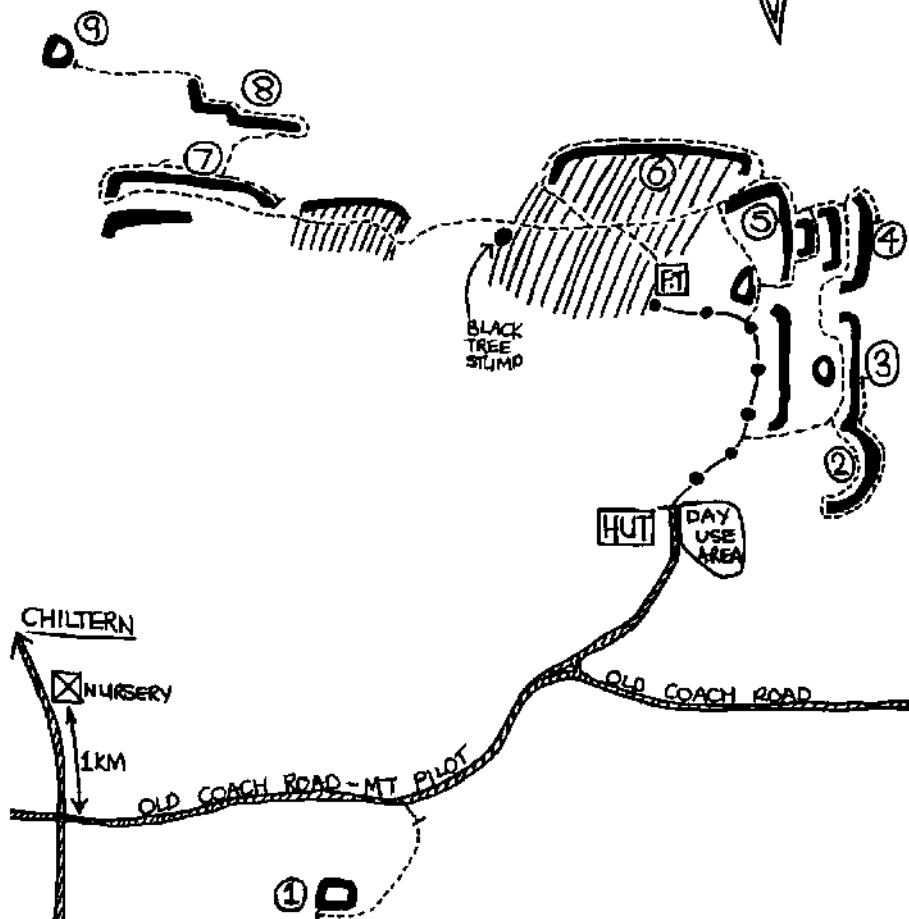
Development focused around The Bakery with few other areas being developed until about 1997, when the Main Walls, Falcon Buttress, The Lower Tier, The Dentistry Boulder and obscure boulders were developed. Nowadays routes are regularly being added with perhaps as many as 4 routes a month being added during peak climbing seasons.

This guide attempts to cover the main areas of Mount Pilot, however, with the current rate of development, you will see new routes added that obviously won't be in this guide.

Geology

Mount Pilot is composed primarily of fairly fine-grained granite. There are also many dykes that cross this granite mound that often provide wonderful holds for desperate climbers! The lower strata (if you can call it that) of rock is the most solid as it isn't subject to the same weathering effects of the upper layers of granite. As such, areas such as The Lower Tier and The Bakery that have this excellent rock are the main drawcard at Mount Pilot.

NOT TO SCALE!



MOUNT PILOT AREA MAP : LEGEND

--- VEHICULAR ROAD

-●- WALKING PATH
--- TRAIL

FT FIRE TOWER
CLIFFLINE
SLABS

① LONE RANGER BOULDER
② FALCON EUTRESS
③ VALLEY WALL

④ DENTISTRY WALLS

⑤ EASTERN SLABS

⑥ YEDDONBA WALL

⑦ BAKERY WALL

⑧ THE LOWER TIER

⑨ THAT BOULDER...

--- TRAIL/TRACK/ROAD END

○ BOULDER

Logistics

Mount Pilot lies about 50 kilometres south west of the twin cities Albury/Wodonga and between the rural towns of Chiltern and Beechworth.

From Melbourne: Drive up the Hume Freeway for about 3 hours until you get to the Chiltern/Beechworth exit, take this exit then turn right towards Beechworth. After about 10 minutes you'll pass a nursery on the left hand side of the road. The turn off to Mount Pilot Recreation Reserve is on your left, 1 kilometre after the nursery and at the top of the next big hill.

From Sydney/Albury/Wodonga: Drive along the Hume Freeway towards Melbourne. After about 15-20 minutes take the Chiltern/Beechworth exit, turn left towards Beechworth and follow the directions as above. If you see a sign for Woolshed Falls, you've gone about 7 minutes too far, turn back!

The Mount Pilot Recreation Reserve is a maze of 4wd tracks, so make sure you follow these directions and the map, otherwise you could get lost for hours!

Abbreviations

BR: Bolt Runner. Refers to any bolt. Mainly used to describe carrot bolts. You will need your own removable hangers to use these.
FH: Fixed Hanger, a bolt with a fixed bracket.

PR: Piton Runner, a Piton
FNA: First Nuted Ascent (Aid)
FTRA: First Top Rope Ascent
FSA: First Suspected Ascent
FKA: First Known Ascent
FFA: First Free Ascent
FCA: First Continuous Ascent
SBTR: Self Belay Top Rope
N: North

E: East
S: South
W: West

★ Recommended Route, do these first!

Note on Grading...

Grading used at Mount Pilot is the normal Ewbank system (0 - whatever) used everywhere else in Australia. The grades here are pretty much in line with those at Buffalo. I have no idea how to grade anything below about grade 12, so routes below that grade will appear marked as "Easy", these are generally walk ups anyway, but climb them at your discretion, only you know your limits and approach these routes accordingly.

Safety

Because of the often suss rock, there have been many near misses, so unless you like the idea of being carried out in agony, observe the following points.

- Do not climb alone, and when bouldering, always have a spotter.
- Watch for rotten rock and bad landings.
- Bring a big cushy crash pad when bouldering.
- Do not blindly trust fixed protection on the routes - test it first.
- Watch out for critters that are either poisonous, or can bite - there are heaps of red back and house spiders, wasps, bull ants and snakes, while magpies and the Peregrine Falcon can take your head off during spring.
- Bring a First Aid Kit and know how to use it

- Most routes here (even the bolted ones) take some form of natural protection, RPs can be very useful!
- Lastly - Climb safely and sensibly, and have fun!

Thanks and Praise

This guide would have been impossible if not for quite a few people. I would like to thank all of those involved in the local climbing scene, especially Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger, Matt Roper, Jason Owen, John Lewis, and Ryan Butler who have been instrumental in the development of the many routes in this area, and have taken the time out of their busy schedules to promote safe and enjoyable climbing at Mount Pilot.

Others who have contributed are: Luke Firtridge, Richard Spry, Andrew Porter, Nick Danne, Derek Rempe, Ben Ching, Sarah Jacob, Adrian Pedler and Joe Sealy. Without these valuable people there would undoubtedly be only a few chossy routes here and there, well done guys! I would also like to thank Bill Andrews for the copy of the Eastern Victorian Climbing Guide and Simon Todman for actually taking the time to compile the thing!

New Routes, Ethics, Issues and Stuff Like That

This area has been developed largely in line with traditional climbing ethics and techniques. There has been no chipping or altering of holds or any buggerising around like that, and with a wee bit of fore-thought we expect it to stay that way for future generations! Please observe that Mount Pilot

is not a sport-climbing crag, and as such when climbing or putting up a new line observe the following points as well as the VCC Climbing Code.

- Leave the moss, lichen, and other vegetation where it is, don't go cleaning great big swathes of vegetation for the sake of a new route.
- If it's worth putting up and the route will go (safely) on gear, leave it that way.
- If it's still worth putting up and will not go safely on gear, try and use stainless carrot bolts.
- This guide attempts to cover areas used constantly, there are heaps of other boulders and small cliffs that have been climbed on. Consult the locals, your new route may have been climbed a long time ago.
- The Mount Pilot area is important to the local Aboriginal people, there are many paintings and other sites here from when they occupied Mount Pilot. Make sure that when putting up new routes or developing a new crag it doesn't interfere with Aboriginal culture and use.

Mount Pilot is not a rubbish bin, unfortunately many other people seem to think that orange peels, cans, finger tape, water bottles and cigarette butts don't count, if you pack it in, make sure you pack it out! Leave the portable stereo at home and enjoy the sounds of nature, besides, your be-layer may not be able to hear you screaming "TAKE!" while falling on some desperate route. Respect others, there are many other people that enjoy this park, they include walkers, sightseers and picnickers.

Observe those few points and you will (as Simon Mentz so reflectively puts it) "be aglow with ethical righteousness". Lastly,

climb sensibly and safely, and make sure you have fun!

Bakery Wall

The Bakery Wall is probably the most popular wall at Mount Pilot, and is also home to many of the best climbs. This area generally has sound rock, which provides for quality climbing without that 'will it or won't it blow' feeling you tend to experience at some of the other areas. I have described this wall first as it is perhaps the best place to start the Mount Pilot experience. There are 2 ways to get here. The easiest way is to head (E) from the fire-tower towards a big black stump. The obvious trail starts on the left hand side (S) of this stump; follow it through an open granite slab and on to the Bakery Wall. The 2nd way (not in the map) starts behind the carpark/day-use area hut and slightly to the left (S) of the cluster of boulders.

The Bakery Wall has a Northerly aspect, and as such, receives sun from sunrise to sunset. Avoid this wall between November to February as you'll fry, besides, you should be at Buffalo. During the autumn - spring months, between March and October, The Bakery Wall comes into it's own, the days tend to be nice and cool and provide excellent friction for those harder test pieces.

The climbs are described from right to left (W - E) as you face the wall.

The Happy Baker 8m 21

The first route on the wall, start on ledge behind cypress, difficult moves past 2 FHs. Paul Martin, John Lewis.

Life In The Fat Lane 9m 18

Start 2 metres left of *The Happy Baker*. Up mini arête to small sloping ledge on right, continue up left diagonal to horizontal breaks. Spiced with a scary and commit-

ting top out. 2 FHs. Paul Martin, John Lewis.

My Lust For Crust 6m 16

The mini arete on the boulder behind *Life In The Fat Lane*. Although very short, this is an excellent warm up, or one to throw the 1st time leaders on. 2 FHs. Paul Martin, John Lewis.

The next two climbs are just around the corner (NE) from My Lust For Crust, on the short orange wall.

Rhinoceros Breath 8m 23

Nice moves up the pockets/scoops to the gripping finger crack. dodgy rock. Matt Roper, Luke Fitridge. 1998

John's Arête #1

The arete that forms the right edge of the chimney to the left of *Rhinoceros Breath*. John Schwerdfeger.

★Solo Man 12m 16

Probably the first route here and its excellent protection and beautiful rock make it an instant classic. The first major splitter finger/hand crack. FSA: Robert Cowan and Co?

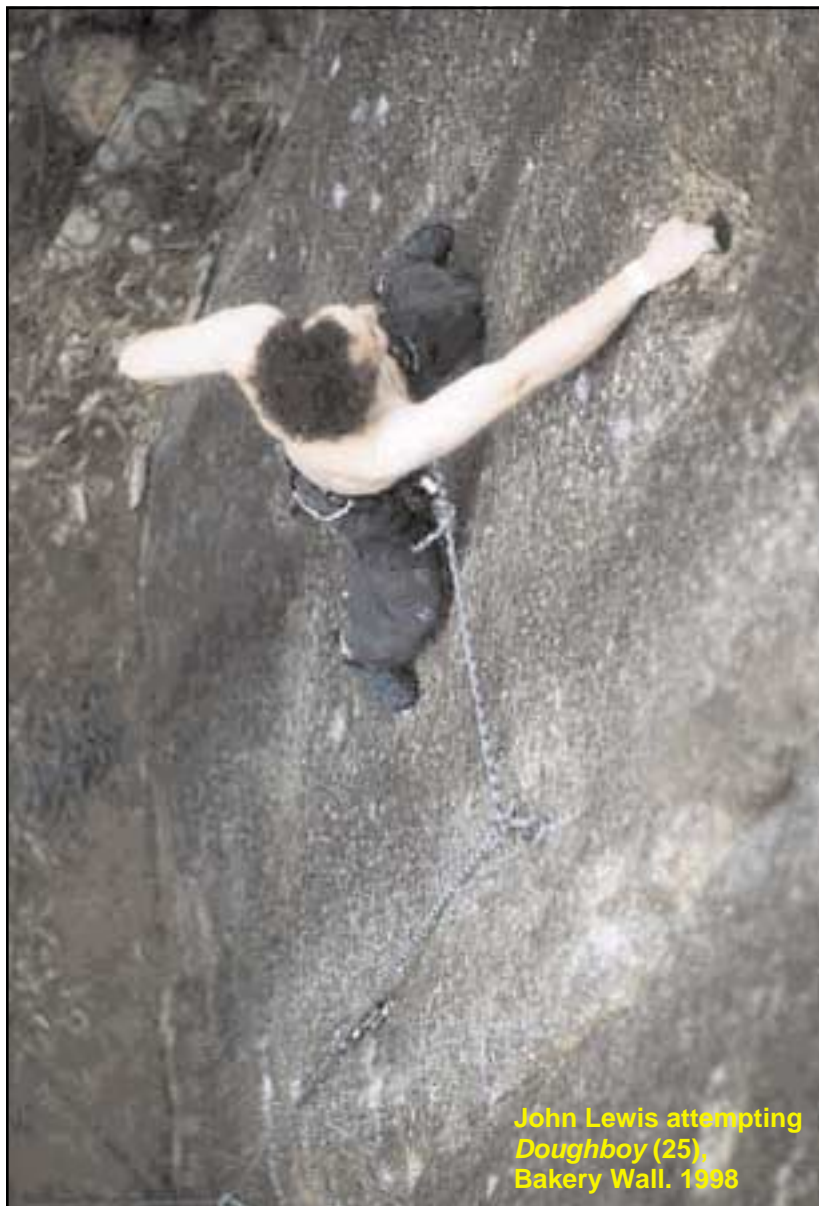
Shortbread 6m 24

No longer a bolted route but is still worth a toprope. Hard moves out of the small cave lead to...nowhere! Finish standing above cave at small edge on left wall. This route is now a hell of a lot harder due to the key undercling snapping off! Derek Rempe. 1997

★Doughboy 20m 25

A hard classic that is a soft touch for the grade. The first closed seam left of the small cave. Hard moves lead to hole and jugs. Lurch left to finger crack (the top of the crack may need brushing after rain), with one more hard move at the top. 4 FHs. Paul Martin, Ryan Butler. 1997

★Doughboy Direct Finish 25m 25/26



John Lewis attempting *Doughboy* (25), Bakery Wall. 1998

An awesome line on brilliant rock. You may want to pre-clip the 5th bolt (top right of crack). Start as for *Doughboy*. At jugs continue up the line to where the seam peters out. Head out right (crux) on tiny crimps and then up (6FHs). Robert Cowan. 2000

★Doughgirl 20m 24

Another brilliant classic. The bolted face left of *Doughboy*. Hard face moves lead to the fingercrack (the top of the crack may need brushing after rain). 3 BR, 1 FH. Paul Martin, Kurt Sagers. 1997

Soot 17m 16

The chimney. Bring some BIG gear, otherwise go on an adventure and use the chockstones for pro. Wayne Webb, Derek Rempe

★Chicken Salad Roll 17m 22

Another really nice route. The left arête of *Soot*. Grade is reduced to about 16 if you stem the other wall, but is still excellent. 4BRs. Matt Roper, Robert Cowan

The Bakery Connection 20m 22

Climbs *Chicken Salad Roll* to 3rd BR. Hard move out left to horizontal crack, and up to jugs. 3BRs and gear in horizontal break. Paul Martin, John Lewis.

Pass the Mustard 20m 23 (M2 if aided)

The tiny seam to the left of *Chicken Salad Roll*. Very technical. Uses *Chicken Salad Roll*'s bolts and a few RPs, exit up *The Bakery Connection*. FNA: Ryan Butler. 2000. FFA: Robert Cowan. 2000

★The Beechworth Bakery 20m 21

Simply awesome; brilliant rock, fantastic moves and bomber protection make this arguably the best route at Mount Pilot! Hard moves off the ground lead to easier ground. Robert Cowan, Matt Roper.

Breakfast at the Ponderosa 15m 15

The next big splitter crack about 2m left of *The Beechworth Bakery*. Can be a tad

loose, although the pro is OK. FSA: Robert Cowan and Co? FKA: Derek Rempe, Wayne Webb. 1993

Rumball Delight 20m 21

Climb the thin crack left of *Breakfast at the Ponderosa* on natural gear to a bolt near the top. John Schwerdfeger, Robert Cowan. 2001

Wissywoo 20m 17

Offwidth crack forming right side of *Johns Arête* to ceiling bulge, then turn bulge by face on right. Can conveniently clip *Johns Arête* bolts till natural pro then runout to top. Rod Kerr, Damian Baker (alt !), Melissa Baker. 2.7.2000

John's Arête 20m 17

The lowish angled bolted arête past 5 or so BRs. For a bit of fun try the direct finish through the roof at about grade 19. John Schwerdfeger. 2000

Stump Jumper 20m 21,M1

This route is about 3 meters left of *John's Arête*. 2 moves of aid on bolts or climb the log up against the wall to gain the crack. Climb the finger/hand crack to the top. Robert Cowan.

The next 2 routes are on a large well-featured orange boulder about 50 metres left of Stump Jumper. Both have average rock, but the bolts are good and both have cool moves and provide good warm up routes.

Big Fatty 8m 17

The cool looking right hand line on suspect rock. 1 BR & 1 FH to UB lower off. FTRA: Robert Cowan and Co. FFA: Paul Martin, John Lewis. 1997

Little Fatty 8m 17

The left hand line is also not too bad, though it also has suspect rock. Good gear down low. 1FH, UB lower off. FTRA: Rob-

ert Cowan and Co. FFA: Paul Martin, John Lewis. 1997

The next routes are around the corner from Little Fatty. Goannas In The Bakery is distinguished by a large hanging flake at half height on the right hand side of the wall.

★Goannas In The Bakery 15m 20

Excellent and somewhat sustained climbing on the obvious half height horizontal flake. At the end of the flake, head left for a couple of moves (crux - take RPs), then straight up into dyke city. 1BR. Paul Martin, Nick Danne.

So, This Is Aid Climbing? 20m M6 (A4)

Delicate hooking up fragile centre of face till about half height, then fine wires in incipient seam. The increasing size of the seam at top is offset by the increasing crumbliness of it, giving false hope of security from small nuts. FTRA Damian baker, Rod. Kerr. August 2000

Rocky Road 20m 22

This route starts in the middle of the main face at a weakness with heaps of dyke rock. Climb the slab to the rightward sickle crack and follow it to the top. 3BRs. Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger.

★Croissant 20m 22

Very hard! Start as for *Rocky Road*, only blast your way straight up the middle of the face passing 6BRs on your way to glory! Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger.

Croissant Variant Finish 20m 20

Start as for *Rocky Road*. Follow the leftward crack to the top on bad gear. Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger.

★Apple Scroll 20m 22/23

Another classic. The low angled black slab behind the big dead tree and to the left of *Unknown*. Excellent climbing past 3BRs leads to huge jugs at the horizontal/ledge

(2 ´ #1 cams). Continue past another BR to the top. Robert Cowan and Co.

Iguana 17m 18

The very coarse finger crack to the left of *Apple Scroll*. Heads right under bulges and up. Tape up and watch out for the goanna that calls this crack home!! Robert Cowan and Co.

Apple Crumble 20m 20

Aptly named. On the next separate cliff line is a black slab capped by a big flattish boulder. This route starts on the right hand end at all the edges and just left of the chossy chimney. 3BRs lead to a crack (# 1 cam) in the overhang, pull through this and head on up. Matt Roper, Robert Cowan.

The Lower Tier

The Lower Tier is perhaps the least frequented area of Mount Pilot, yet some of the routes here are arguably the best in the area.

This area is very similar to The Bakery in its aspect, however, the rock here tends to be a lot more solid, with hard starts on many of the routes, leading to easy slabs. The rough (and often overgrown) trail starts from behind Breakfast at the Ponderosa on the Bakery Wall and by following the map, you'll pop around the eastern end of the wall. As such, the routes are described from left to right (east to west).

Sarah's 6m 16

The first small slab between 2 cracks. Start in centre of slab, go left to big edge, up over bulge, then right to join Straight Up. Top rope. FTRA: Sarah Jacob, Paul Martin.

Straight Up 6m 19

As the name implies, straight up. Top rope. FTRA: Paul Martin, Ben Ching.

Ethics 8m 18

The horrible looking crack, yes the one with all the branches and other crap in it. Robert Cowan, Steve Lyons.

The Knifeblade 15m 20

The first bolted route. Up black wall past FH to big jugs at about 4 metres. Wander up and left from here, placing whatever meagre gear you can find, just don't fall at the top! Jason Owen, Paul Martin.

The Venus Fly Trap 15m 20

Horrible. The major ugly looking crack. A lot harder than it looks and is not a recommended route. Steve Lyons, Robert Cowan.

The Venus Fly Trap Left Hand Variant 20m 20

Another awful route. Start up flake/crack that joins *The Venus Fly Trap* at about 4 metres. Up as for *The Venus Fly Trap*. Also not recommended. Matt Roper, Paul Martin.

★Seam Stress 10m 24

A classic, and one of the best routes at Mount Pilot. The wall with 3 FHs offers some very hard and steep cranking. Stick clip 1st FH. Hard moves past this lead to excellent incuts. Exit out left at twin seams, lower off at chains. Paul Martin, Ben Ching

★Bobbin 15m 21

Short but sweet. The very steep bulge right of *Seam Stress* isn't as hard as it looks. Stick clip the first FH. Over bulge, and have a short and pleasant meander to the top. Paul Martin, Robert Cowan.

Crack One 20m 19

Not recommended. The first crack around the corner from *Bobbin*. Matt Roper, Robert Cowan.

Crack Two 12m 20

The next crack right of *Crack One*. I don't know why, but debate still rages over who did the first ascent of this choss heap. For

arguments sake it was probably first done by a goanna. Zeb the Goanna '56

★Ache To Touch You 10m 23

Quite a nice route on excellent hard dyke rock, also one of the only routes down here that still sees regular ascents; probably because the crux moves are a couple of metres off the ground and very well protected! Bouldery moves down low lead to a pocket and the 2nd FH. Step right and finish up *Thredbo*. Paul Martin, Jason Owen.

Thredbo 10m 20

A really cool route if you can do the start. A very hard start leads to easier stuff with big jugs. Jason Owen, Paul Martin.

That Boulder...

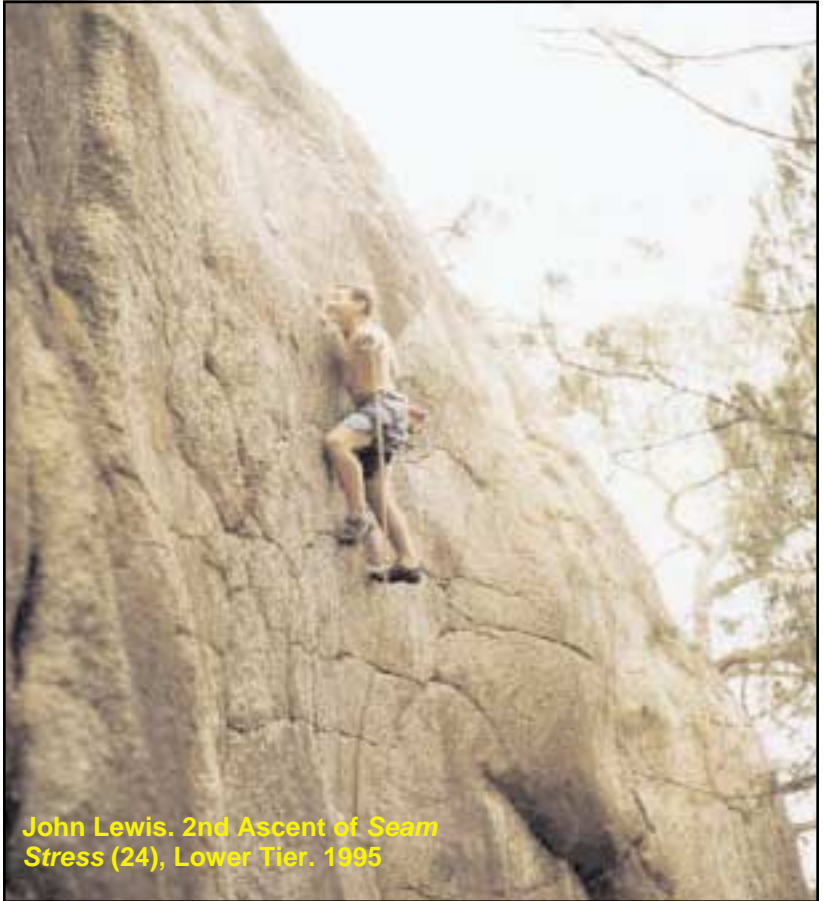
This boulder lies to the far right (west) of THE LOWER TIER. Access is by a faint trail. Stay on the same contour as THE LOWER TIER, and walk (west) roughly 300 metres. Check out the map for more info. This boulder is about 8 metres high and is recognisable by the brilliant orange (north) facing wall and finger crack. Check out the neat boulder problem in the cave while you're here.

★Boulderly Yours 8m 23

Brilliant rock and super cool moves. The finger crack to the huge horizontal slot and roof, continue up the headwall. Gear was pre-placed above the roof (RPs) on the FFA. FTRA: Paul Martin, Jason Owen. 1995. FFA: Robert Cowan, Paul Martin. 1997

Rocher Escarpe de la Nuit

Named for it's incredible blackness, this slab lies on the same contour as THE LOWER TIER and is very easy to find. As



John Lewis. 2nd Ascent of Seam Stress (24), Lower Tier. 1995

you get to the east end of THE LOWER TIER you'll notice a small boulder with a distinct roof/lip on it. Walk past this for about 30m heading northeast and you can't miss it. Routes are described from right to left (west to east) as you face the wall.

La Mer Noire 10m 17

Pockets don't get any better than these! Start as for *Grimpeuse de la Nuit* or the direct start of Charbon (22). Traverse right

(6m) along the ledge until you get to the line of pockets to the right of Charbon's line. SBTR. Paul Martin.

Charbon 9m 18

The centre line. Either stem between the Cypress Pines and use the big edge (22/23), or start as for *Grimpeuse de la Nuit*. Straight up the line of little vertical seams/cracks. SBTR. Paul Martin

Grimpeuse de la Nuit 8m 18

The line on the far left of the slab, just to the left of the cypress pines. Straight up through the slipperiness. SBTR. Paul Martin.

Falcon Buttress

This wall is the first big wall closest to the carpark. This wall is located in a valley, and has an easterly aspect. The routes here are all fairly long (30 metres minimum) by Mount Pilot standards. Unfortunately most of these routes suffer from loose rock. This makes for fairly scary climbing with that 'will it or won't it blow' feeling.

These routes are generally well protected with either fixed hangers or carrot bolts. There is also a bit of pro to be placed on a couple of these routes. Approach to the FALCON CLIFF AREA is via the walking path. Walk 60m past the gate turn right off the main trail down a vague trail and walk approx 50 meters down hill. This will lead to the top of the FALCON BUTTRESS. If you find yourself in front of a big orange boulder (Incidentally this boulder has a grade 23 top rope route up the face), you are in front of VALLEY WALL. FALCON BUTTRESS is to your right (looking out).

Follow the map for better details. Access is either by walking around to the south and down, or by abseiling from the top of VALLEY WALL.

Do not climb in this area between June and December as the resident Peregrine Falcon breeds here during this period.

Encephalopathy 30m 30

The first route as you walk down (facing the wall). Climb the face left of the arête to the horizontal crack. Swing right on the face above the slab and up to the top, Has

5BRs or so, take a few SLCDs. Matt Roper, Robert Cowan.

Two Scoops 45m 24/25

Start as for *Falcons Lair*, move left past the two scoops then up the face past three bolts to join *Falcons Lair*. Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger, Matt Roper.

Falcons Lair 45m 22

Up centre of the face to diagonal crack pull through then up face past 5BRs. Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger, Matt Roper.

Falcons Nest 45m 22/23

Right side of face pull past bolt to thin ledge, traverse right and over small roof, climb the arête past 4BRs. Robert Cowan, John Schwerdfeger, Matt Roper.

Valley Wall

Valley Wall is a really nice area. It is shaded for most of the day and is a nice place to just sit and enjoy the view. This wall only has two established routes at present. The wall is often used by the SES, Army and other recreational groups as an abseiling area. These people tend to be a bloody dirty bunch, so please take it upon yourself to remove any of their rubbish. VALLEY WALL is an area that could suffer from over exploitation. Please don't remove any lichen or moss to 'create' a path to the top. Access is from FALCON BUTTRESS or abseil in.

The following 3 routes were climbed in 1979 by Peter Cunningham and Iain Sedgman.

Lightning Fork 40m 12

May have been originally been called Lightning Fork Chimney. The route is obvious as the wide chimney line has a zig in it. The left hand line on Falcon Buttress that now has a few carrot bolts in it cour-

tesy of Matty Roper. FFA By a team including C. Trafford. November 1976

The Lighthouse of Alexandria 45m 15
40 metres right of the left hand end of the cliff at a leftward diagonal line becoming a flake/chimney. The left hand crack line at the major break in Falcon Buttress. **1. 35m** Move left on the boulder pull onto the ledge and up leftward ramp to the flake/chimney. **2. 10m** Scramble to the top. Peter Cunningham, Iain Sedgman. 7.7.79

Rough Edge 40m 17

Starts at the main corner of the left hand end of the cliff and about 50m left of *The Lighthouse Of Alexandria*. This is the big crusty corner that joins Falcon Buttress to Valley Wall. **1. 20m** The corner to a cave behind some large blocks. **2. 20m** The crack to the ledge. Instead of scrambling off, continue to the top via the steep crack that starts on the little ledge above. Peter Cunningham, Iain Sedgman. 7.7.79

★On The Edge 25m 20

The only top to bottom route on the wall and a bloody nice one at that! Can be done in 1 pitch of 20 metres. Pitch 2 was climbed as a separate route by Paul Martin, until Jason Owen, who with John Lewis, added the obvious 1st pitch and bagged the first complete ascent. **1. 10m** Start off the big block at the base of the chimney. Ordinary gear leads to a FH at about 6 metres. Up to belay ledge (FH). **2. 10m** Continue up the brilliant left arête passing 3 FHs to the top. FCA: Jason Owen, John Lewis. (alt)

Fingered 10m 21

To the right of *On The Edge* is a really clean beautiful looking finger crack. Climb the finger crack to the ledge then boldly mount the face above. (I think Bob has put a BR in it, otherwise top rope it.) Bob Cowan, John Schwerdfeger.



Jason Owen. 1st ascent of the 1st Pitch of *On The Edge* (20), Valley Wall.

Dentistry Wall

The DENTISTRY WALL is a fairly new area, which has been worked on since about 1997. The rock is generally solid and most routes are very well protected with BRs. The DENTISTRY WALL has an upper and a lower tier, with the upper tier being a very large boulder.

Approach to the DENTISTRY WALL is also along the walking path. Walk 150 meters past the gate. Turn right off the main trail along a boulder. Descend the back of the boulder and walk approximately 100 meters down hill to the left. This will lead to the top of the DENTISTRY WALL. Alternatively you can approach from VALLEY WALL by walking north on a rough trail. This is probably the easiest option as FALCON BUTTRESS, VALLEY WALL and DENTISTRY WALL are on roughly the same contour line.

On your way to the wall you'll pass the following route on a large boulder.

Another Boulder Problem 15m 22

About 100 meters left of the Dentistry Wall is a large boulder. This route passes 3BRs on the face. Bob Cowan, Matt Roper, Richard Spry.

The next route is easy to find and is on a cleaned arête roughly 50 meters uphill



Joe Sealy cranking hard on a boulder problem at The Lower Tier

from the above route and on the tier of rock before the walking path.

Mount Pilot Unearthed 20m 17

A good example of how not to put up a route! Climb the 20-meter slab arête past 3BRs. Robert Cowan, Richard Spry.

From left to right facing the UPPER TIER of the DENTISTRY WALL proper, you will find the following climbs.

Crown Jewel 15m 19

Climb up a ramp past two bolts the mount the head wall above past one more bolt. Robert Cowan, Ryan Butler.

Plaque Removal 15m 24

Climb the thin wall past 6 bolts. Robert Cowan.

Bridge Work 15m 20 /21

Bridge the crack and slip up the arête past two bolts. Robert Cowan, Ryan Butler.

Crack Cusp Technique 15m 17

4 meters right of Bridge Work is a clean curving crack. Ryan Butler Robert Cowan.

The following routes are on the lower tier of DENTISTRY WALL.

Root Canal 15m 17

Has a nice committing crux that has seen more than one fall! The next tier below the above climbs is a cracked face topped by a bulge. Climb the broken crack system and clip a BR before pulling the root-bulge. Richard Spry, Matt Roper.

Its a Gas 15m 25

6 meters left of *Root Canal* is a rippled face. Crank your pants off past 5 bolts. Robert Cowan. November 1999

Eastern Slabs

This area makes up the main slabs that form the eastern tier of slabs that can be found about 50 metres to the northeast of the fire tower.

The following route can be found on the eastern side of a large boulder just before the track gets to the summit of Mount Pilot.

Auto Pilot 12m 'Easy'

A popular, and very easy warm up. Would be amazing if clean, unfortunately this brilliant finger crack is festooned with lichen and a small bush! Still worth the effort though!

As you walk directly northeast from the fire tower, you will come to the top of a large low angled slab. The following two routes are on this slab. Walk down the gully to the (facing out) left, the first clean sweep of very low angled rock with a white water streak is BURLOCK DINKY.

★Burlock Dinky 20m 'Easy'

Quite a fun little solo! The nice long white water streak. No Protection! Kurt Saggars. Solo. 1996

39 Cents of Glory 30m 20

Walk around to the base of the slab proper and you'll see another obvious white water streak. Follow the water streak over the steepening and up past some dubious flakes. No protection! Iain Sedgman (with rope), Peter Watson, Peter Cunningham. 22.7.79

The next two routes can be found directly below the EASTERN SLABS and a little to the south; follow the cairns if they're still there.

★Pegasus 12m 23

The clean black water streak in the centre of the slab. Superbly technical! Top rope

this route after doing *Slide Away*. FTRA: Paul Martin.

★Slide Away (AKA: Flake Off) 14m 16

One of the most popular routes at Mount Pilot. To the right of Pegasus is a line with heaps of flakes. Nice climbing past 2 FHs leads to a chain lower off. Paul added the bolts and chain after the FFA to minimise erosion, and to prevent dirt, sticks and the like fouling the route. FTRA: Peter Cunningham. 22.7.79. FFA: Paul Martin. Solo. 1994

Yeddonba Wall

The next few routes are on the main north facing wall from the firetower. Access by walking west, down and around. Routes start from the major crack from the big obvious 'ledge' behind the cypress pines and are described from right to left facing the wall.

★Oil on Canvas 30m 22

The first closed corner you come across. A hard start leads to good pockets and good gear. To avoid the chossy direct finish, move left over the slab at the end of the corner to join The Tourist Route. Paul Martin, Nick Danne, Andrew Porter.

★The Tourist Route 30m 16

Not a climb for the budding Grade 16 leader; certain ground fall if you blow the clip on the FH. The obvious big layback flake. Fun laybacking leads to a pleasant doddle up the slab (1FH). FTRA: Wayne Webb, Derek Rempe, Kurt Saggars, Paul Martin. 1993. FFA: Paul Martin, Nick Danne, Andrew Porter.

★A Room with a View 35m 19

Duck through the cave and this is the next nice crack along. Easy moves out of the cave lead to an awesome no hands rest. Continue up the thin corner (crux).

Variant: Squirm your way up the ledge

and finish up the corner. Paul Martin, Andrew Porter, Nick Danne.

★Yeddonba Wall 40m 'Easy'

Great positions and really nice slabbing on this classic. Start at the very base of the slab at the far left-hand (east) end of the wall. Up the cleanish slab, tending right past the bushy crack and passing the BR. Continue up the brilliant finger crack to the summit. (1BR). FSA: Iain Sedgman and Co. FKA: Wayne Webb, Derek Rempe, Kurt Sagers, Paul Martin. All solo. 1993

Yeddonba Wall Variant 1 40m 'Easy'

A bit of an adventure. As for *Yeddonba Wall*, up slab to bushy crack, up to ledge, traverse right into finger crack and continue to summit. FSA: Iain Sedgman and Co. FKA: Wayne Webb, Derek Rempe, Kurt Sagers, Paul Martin. All solo. 1993

Yeddonba Wall Variant 2 50m 'Easy'

Start as for *Yeddonba Wall* or *Yeddonba Wall Variant 1*. From the base of the finger crack traverse right to the cleaned section of slab out right and continue to the summit. Very scary and exposed if going solo! FSA: Iain Sedgman and Co. FTRA: Wayne Webb, Derek Rempe, Kurt Sagers, Paul Martin. 1993

Yeddonba Wall Direct Start 40m 22?,M1

This route provides an unprotected direct start to the brilliant finger crack of *Yeddonba Wall*. Start off the U-shaped tree trunk and lunge for a half-decent hold, crank hard and try not to fall! Derek Rempe. 1997

The Picnic Slab

This small slab is only a stone's throw away from the carpark. Head northeast from the carpark and you can't miss it. Routes are described from right to left (north - south) as you face the wall.

The Teva Route 9m 'Easy'

As the name suggests, this is super easy

and basically a walk up. The first water streak. Paul Martin. Solo.

★Daytripper 9m 'Easy'

Quite a nice little route. Provides a really good warm up and is also an excellent top rope for the punters. The brushed line at the left (S) end of the wall. Paul Martin. Solo.

Lone Ranger Boulder

This boulder can be found as you drive out of Mount Pilot; about 500 metres back from the carpark. It is on the south side of the road and stands roughly 10 metres in height. The route is on the back of the boulder.

Luke's Route 10m 22

Climb the hand-crack, then pull past some thin moves protected by a FH. Luke Frtridge, Matt Roper.

Rock climbing IS a dangerous sport.

There will be inaccuracies in route descriptions, grades or climb start descriptions. Many of the routes described in this guide have had few ascents; if something seems wrong then bail out. Do not place total reliance on fixed protection; it may not be in place, or it may fail. Do not blame the editor, the first ascensionist, Parks Victoria or anyone else if it fails. As a climber you must take responsibility for your own safety; if you are not prepared to do this, then don't buy this guide and don't go climbing.

If there are mistakes in the guide then let the editor know; don't leave it to someone else because the chances are they won't be bothered.