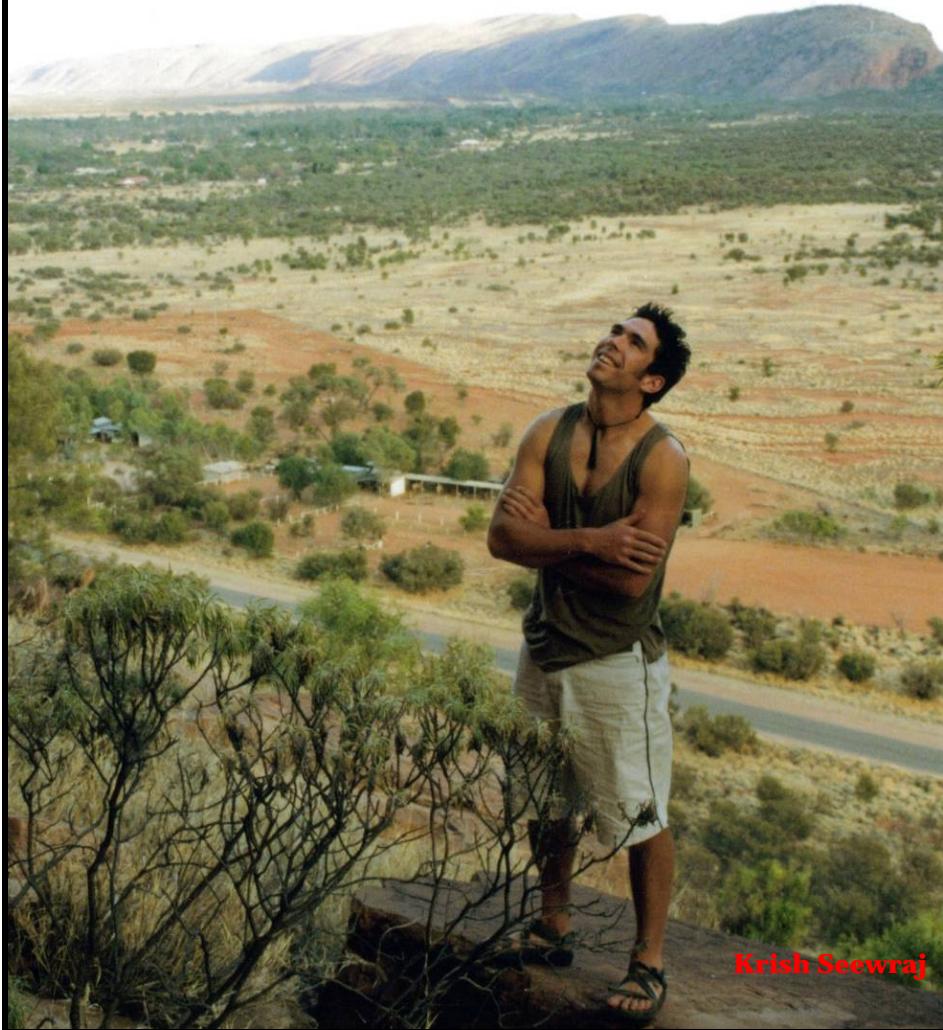


Rock Climbing in Central Australia

December 2005 - Addendum



Krish Seewraj

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Keep in mind that this is only a guide, it helps climbers to find out what climbs have been recorded in Central Australia and that is all. The information given is true and accurate to the best of the editor's knowledge. When using this guide please read the introductory sections to get a handle on what to expect when climbing in Central Australia. The grades and descriptions may be subject to debate as many of the climbs have only had a few actual and/or known ascents, some having never been repeated.

Remember climbing is an adventure sport.

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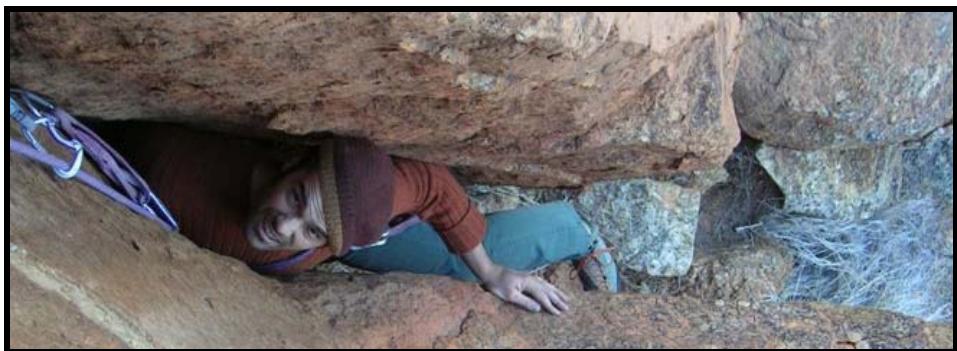
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Front Cover: Mark Rewi on his last morning in the centre eyeing up Hyerba Burger - 18

Rear Cover: Ben Purcell after only just surviving the first ascent of Almost One More Carcass - 15

Introduction

To make sense of any of this you will need to have the full guide, and for ease the climbing areas in this little addendum have been laid out in the same order as you'll find them in the full guide. You might ask why for the sake of a mere fourteen low to mid grade climbs I've bothered to put this little collection together. If you have climbed in Central Australia you will know why, it's the sort of place where egos and numbers go out the window and you simply get out and have fun. Further to this I guess I did it just because we climbed these routes, we had fun doing them and Mark Rewi will enjoy having his mug on the front cover.



Ben Purcell thinking he's having fun during the first ascent of Grovel - 10

Stegar Road Crags - Horseyard Crag

Old Man of the Crag 10m 18

Heading up the short wall right of Mixed Emotions this is a steep climb that doesn't give you much rest, while there is good gear, finding and placing it will seep your strength away. Start up the right tending crack in the middle of the wall, after the crack continue up the blocky section to finish at the right hand end of the top of the wall. A harder direct finish awaits through the middle of the wall, which was simply too hard for this ole fella on the day. Krish Seewraj, Warwick Beever 27/11/05

The Arch

Sugar Rush 45m 17

A sustained and continually interesting climb with some fine moves and good gear. Start as for Cerebral Vortex, up the arch for a few meters before stepping left onto and ascending a slab. Up to the right facing corner and step left onto a second slab. Ascend the slab to and over the widest part of the roof, being careful to avoid the loose blocks. From here follow the left tending corner till it ends after which a direct line leads to a belay ledge, alternatively continue on easy ground to the top of the crag. Krish Seewraj, Warwick Beever 31/06/05

Wallaby Crag

Elephants Arse 7m 19

Another sustained and pumpy line up the crack 5m right of Deception in the upper wall. Scramble to the ledge at the base of the wall. While the crack doesn't provide any rest spots it has great protection, it also has a tricky top out. Krish Seewraj, Ben Purcell 01/08/05

Upping 8m 10

In the middle of the outcrop is a short buttress with a distinct chimney splitting it down the middle. Traditional back and footing gets you up the chimney until it narrows and forces you out, from here direct or slip left for an easier finish. Krish Seewraj (solo) 25/06/05

At the right end of the outcrop is a blocky buttress, which provides some fine low grade traditional style routes. The first two climbs ascend the V notches in the upper sections of the left end of the crag. To get to them you can either scramble up to the ledge or start from the ground, which would add about 4m of climbing.

Grovel 6m 10

Only slim people should try this climb due to the fun but awkward start! Thrutch your way through the narrow gap that guards the upper V notch, where the climbing gets easier and less claustrophobic. Krish Seewraj, Ben Purcell 01/08/05

Crazy Days 6m 8

The climbing is more consistent on this climb. While getting into the right hand V notch is easy some may get eaten by the crack in the upper sections. Ben Purcell, Krish Seewraj 01/08/05

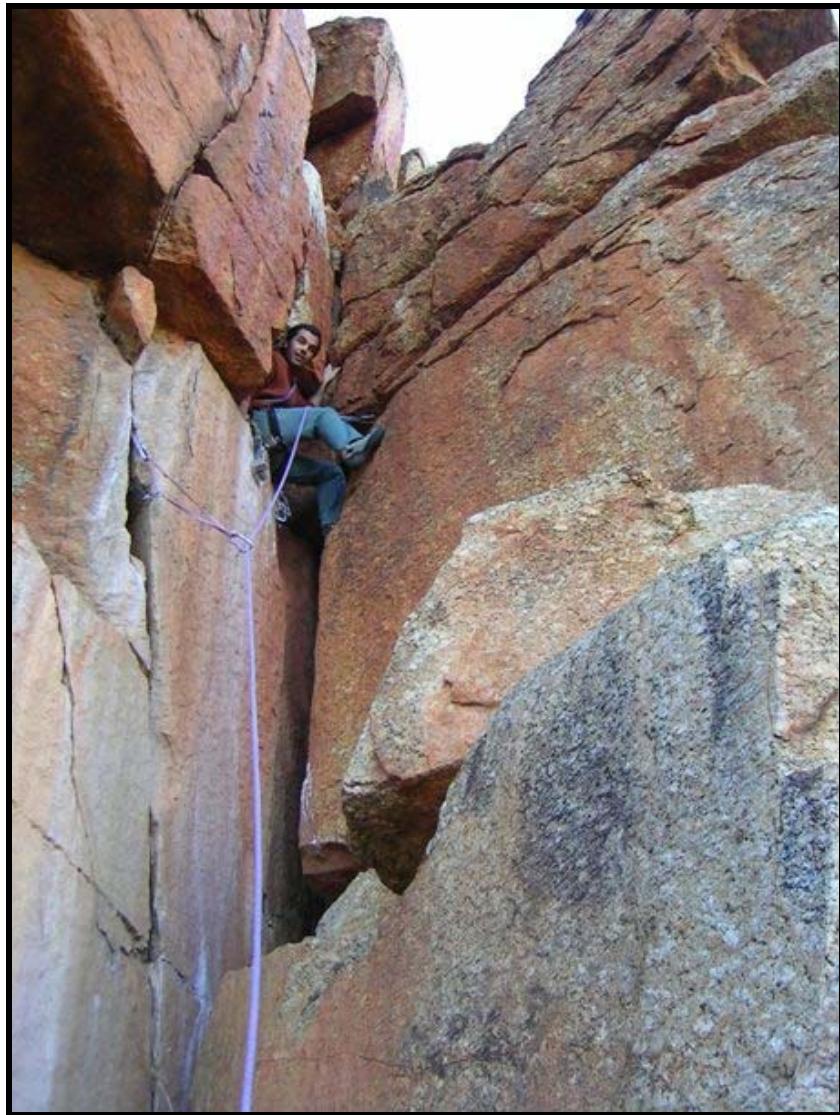
The next route offers excellent, steep and fingery climbing. While there is good protection in the upper section it would be very strenuous to place. The climb is also a little contentious, as it is possible to use the right-hand wall, of the corner of Upping Madness, to bridge up past the hardest sections. If you do it this way, like I did, the grade drops by several notches.

Too Hard For Me 10m +24

Start as for Upping Madness but before committing to the corner proper, climb the crack that leads to the steep headwall left of the corner. Establishing yourself in the thin crack above is hard, but the holds get bigger the higher you go. At the horizontal break use the wider jamming crack immediately to the left to finish. (Top-rope) Krish Seewraj 01/08/05

Upping Madness 10m 8

The big corner is great fun and well protected. Up the corner avoiding getting in too deep, before being forced to bridge up the upper part. From the top finish up the short chimney on the left. Ben Purcell, Krish Seewraj 01/08/05



Ben Purcell taking a rest on the first ascent of Upping Madness - 8

Glen Helen - Old Timers Gully

Blocked Path 8m 8

Up the blocky corner immediately left of Safety Sam and Unnamed with good gear and big holds. Ben Purcell, Krish Seewraj 12/06/05

Trephina - North Wall

Me Either 16/20 15m

Starts a few metres right of It Wasn't Me, this is also a right diagonal line. With difficulty pull up below roof and place your protection. Then swing up rightwards on good jam to big jug above overhang. Climb easily up and diagonally right to below short overhanging hand crack. Up this to top. Garn Cooper, Andrew Drenen 18/04/05

La Ley De Fuga 18 15m

Starts 3m left of Little Perentie. Climb up diagonally leftwards towards a horizontal break which will clearly provide protection. From here go straight up through the bulge, then avoid loose blocks by climbing left of them to the top. Garn Cooper, Sean Martin 28/03/05

Deep Gully at Boggy Hole

Flywheel 17 60m

Start: At the same height as the big roof left of Perspectivity, and left of it, is another smaller triangular roof. This climb takes the corner to its left. Gain the true line from the right (the direct start is unappealingly sandy). Step through a little roof and climb up to the base of the corner, then up this to where the angle eases. Continue up easier ground with the customary detached boulders liberally sprinkled about. After pulling through an overhang continue directly up through weaknesses in the two final rock bands. Garn Cooper, Anders Brown 08/05/05

Circumlocution 17 45m

Start: This climb passes the left end of the big roof left of Perspectivity. Start below a nice looking crack for protection, below the left end of this roof. Climb up to and then up this crack, which leads up a left facing corner just right of a spear bush. At the height of the vine traverse right to under the roof, then climb up to its left margin. Traverse right along the lip of the roof to reach the crack in the face. Follow this taking the clean right hand variant to the top of the face. Climb up the easier angled territory to belay at the white gum. We abseiled but feel free to continue through the final rock bands, we should have. Garn Cooper, Anders Brown 08/05/05

Gravestone Crag

This crag is located on the western bank of the Todd River on land managed by Bond Springs and till now no contact has been made with the stations owners regarding access. The easiest way to get to the crag is to walk along the Todd River from the Telegraph Station. When walking up the river there is a tributary that comes in from the left, be sure not to follow this line and stick to the main river. The crag is approximately 750m north of the fence that demarcates the boundary between the Telegraph Station and Bond Springs. The walk along the river will take approximately 20min. However, if you intend to get an early start be aware that the gates of the Telegraph Stations do not open till 8:00am, in which case you will need to park on the side of the road and walk an extra kilometre or so.

The rock comprises Alice Springs Granite which can be flaky in nature, this and the fact that the crag has received very few visits means that care should be taken as even large blocks may be precariously perched. The 15m high cliff has a range of corners and steep faces that offer probable lines. It faces east and catches the morning sun and during wetter periods the water hole can extend such that access to the base of its right hand end can be problematic. Descents can be made either to the north or south.

Almost One More Carcass 14m 15

This line takes the most prominent and longest corner at the right hand end of the crag, with a distinctive overhanging headwall above. The initial corner offers good climbing with ample protection. Above exit the corner by moving left and follow the left tending ramp on dubious rock, before bold unprotected moves allow you to step back right above the overhang. Ben Purcell, Krish Seewraj 14/08/05

