

Guide
to
Rock-Climbs
in the
Northern Territory

W. WILLIAMS
S.P.C.

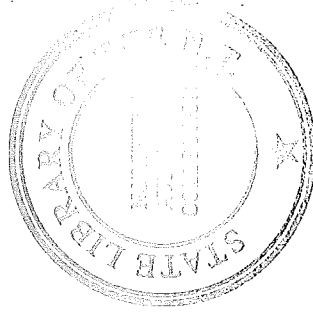
GUIDE TO

ROCK CLIMBS IN THE

NORTHERN TERRITORY

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WARWICK H. WILLIAMS

1973

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GUIDE TO ROCK CLIMBS IN THE

NORTHERN TERRITORY

INTRODUCTION

The climbs in this guide book are all those known in the Northern Territory and, apart from one in the Top End, are in the area around Alice Springs. This area is generally known as the Centre. Most of the climbs are in the MacDonnell Ranges and these are the areas which are described first. The areas are listed commencing at the western end at Glen Helen, and then going east to Trepahina Gorge. Climbing

Introduction

areas between the MacDonnell's and the southern border are then described, followed by the areas north of the Ranges. A general location map of the Centre can be found, appropriately enough, in the centre pages.

Climbers visiting the Northern Territory should remember that, during winter, low temperatures and overnight frosts are common in the Centre and ^{in summer} it is the "wet" season in the Top End; so come prepared.

BRIEF HISTORY OF CLIMBING IN

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

(1968-1973)

The earliest recorded climbs in the Northern Territory date back to 1968-1969 when Gordon and Pam Oates were living in Alice Springs. An English girl, Pauline Mason, also climbed with them during this period. All their climbing was in the immediate vicinity of Alice Springs: Honeymoon Gap, Wigleys Waterhole, and Standley Chasm. Apart from the one climb at Standley Chasm, all the routes were free climbs. As accurate route details were not available, these climbs have not been included in the main text of the guide.

Brief History

(Brief details of these climbs can be found in the "Other Climbs and Recommended Areas" section).

After 1969, no more climbs were recorded until April, 1972 when Garth Powell and Keith Seddon put up "Sunday Morning" a climb at Robin Falls in the Top End of the Northern Territory. This year marked the start of concentrated climbing in Central Australia, the next event being an attempt on the Kangaroo Tail (Ngaltawaddi - Digging Stick) at Ayers Rock in July, by Andrew Thomson and Keith Lockwood.

Brief History

They succeeded in climbing about 140m before one of the park rangers ordered them down and made them leave the park.

Climbs began to be recorded with some regularity when Helen and John Griffiths moved to Alice Springs in August, 1972. Their first climbs were in the MacDonnell Ranges close to town: Heavitree Gap, Emily Gap, Jessie Gap and Burt Bluff. During this time, Fergus Hughes began climbing with them and the three attempted to climb Chambers Pillar; a fantastic monolith that rises 68m from the plain on the edge of the Simpson Desert. Lack of necessary

Brief History

equipment and psychological problems (caused by extremely poor rock) forced a retreat.

At the beginning of 1973 Keith Seddon arrived in Alice Springs and teamed up with John Griffiths (Helen Griffiths being absent for nearly three months). Together they investigated Serpentine Gorge, putting up "Terrapin", and then spent time doing climbs in Jessie Gap. When Helen Griffiths returned to Alice Springs, the three climbers opened up many new areas: North Face of Mount Gillen, Ooraminna Pinnacle, Corroboree Rock, Trepkina

TECHNICAL NOTES

Brief History

Gorge and Glen Helen. These three also did the first ascent of Chambers Pillar in June, 1973, a few weeks after the completion of the Kangaroo Tail in May by Lockwood and Thomson. These last two climbs are the most serious undertakings so far in the Northern Territory.

The editors hope that this guide-book (produced in September, 1973) will prove to be a source of encouragement and inspiration for climbers to develop rock climbing in the Northern Territory.

ACCESS:

Where ownership of a cliff is known, it is included under the relevant section. Permission to climb on any cliff should be obtained from the owner before attempting to climb there.

N.B. THE INCLUSION OF A CLIFF

IN THIS GUIDE DOES NOT IMPLY

THAT CLIMBING IS ALLOWED ON THAT CLIFF.

DISTANCES:

Unless otherwise specified, all distances are taken from the centre of Alice Springs.

Technical Notes

ROCK:

There are many types of rock in the Northern Territory, and where rock-type is known, it has been included in the cliff description. Climbers must expect to deal with a lot of loose rock on all the cliffs covered by this guide.

PITCH LENGTHS:

All pitch lengths given in this book were originally in Imperial measurements and have been converted to metric. Consequently there may be some discrepancies in the lengths of pitches given in the guide.

Technical Notes

GRADING:

The grading system used in this guidebook for free climbing is a combination of the Ewbank numerical system and the adjectival system. Basically it is as follows:-

The numerical system begins at 1 (one) and extends, theoretically, to infinity; at present it finishes in the low twenties. The numerical grade of a climb is used solely to indicate the hardest technical difficulty involved.

The adjectival grade indicates the seriousness of the climb, taking into account all relevant factors:

Technical Notes

technicality, rock quality, available protection, difficulties of escape, and exposure. As the adjectival system involves technical difficulty it follows that each technical grade must have a minimum adjectival grade, which is as follows:

1 - 3 Easy; 4 - 6 Moderate; 7 - 9 Difficult; 10- 12 Very Difficult; 13 - 15 Severe; 16 - 18 Very Severe; 19 - upwards Hard Very Severe.

The grade "Extremely Severe" has been reserved for climbs that are highly dangerous leads (and

Technical Notes

often, though not always, of high technical difficulty.)

A climb that is safe and is technically grade 11 (eleven), could receive an overall grading of very Difficult (11), whereas a poorly protected grade 11 would probably be Severe (11).

For mechanical climbing, the grading is a numerical one preceded by the letter M (mechanical), hence giving M1, M2, M3, etc. At present the system extends to M7 or M8.

NOTES:

Where used for aid or protection details have been included in the

Technical Notes

climb description. Leaders (on free climbs) who use extra are merely lowering the standard of the climb to their own level of competency.

BOLTS:

Have only been used on the Kangaroo Tail (Ngaltawaddi - Digging Stick) so far. Their use should be discouraged because many of the cliffs come under the control of the Northern Territory Reserves Board, and the damage caused by both bolts and pitons may seriously affect relations between the Board and climbers.

NEW CLIMBS:

Details of all new routes, including length, grade and description, should be sent to the Thrutch representative for the Northern Territory, or failing this, to Thrutch itself.

GLOSSARY:

Grades:-	Mod.	-	Moderate
	Diff.	-	Difficult
	V. Diff.	-	Very Difficult
	Sev.	-	Severe
	V.S.	-	Very Severe
	H.V.S.	-	Hard Very Severe

Bolts should be used only

Technical Notes

new routes where absolutely essential for aid. When used for protection, they serve as permanent reminders that the originators were incompetent to lead safely at that grade.

NEW CLIMBS:

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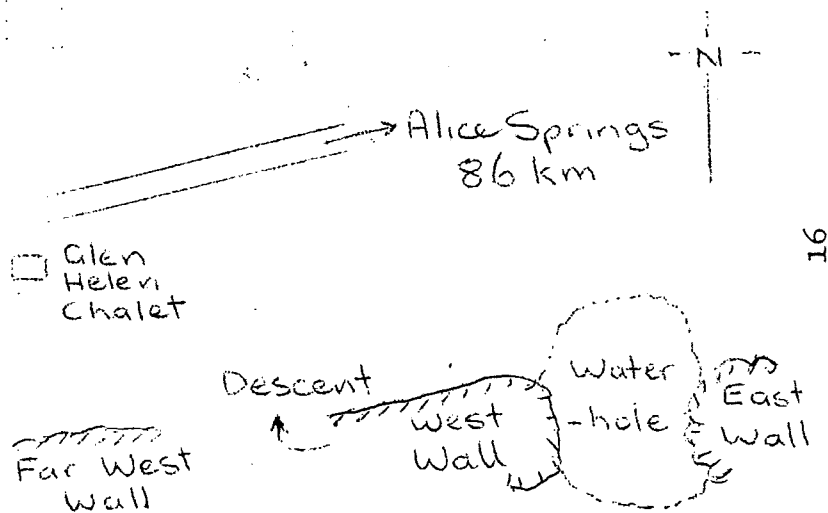
GLEN HELEN

Geology: Heavittree Quartzite.

Owner: Northern Territory
Reserves Board.

Descent: Scramble down from the
top as marked on map.

Access: Take the Jay Creek road
out of Alice Springs and then
follow the signs to Glen Helen.
128 kilometres (80 miles).



Glen Helen

WEST WALL

SCORPION

22m Diff(8)

Starts: About 100m west from the waterhole is an obvious chimney.

1. 22m Climb up the chimney behind where it first narrows and then up in front of the second narrows. Straight up to the chockstone, or move out to small ledge on the left and then diagonally back to chockstone.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

Keith Seddon

8/7/73

SERPENTINE GORGE

Geology: Heavitree Quartzite.

Owner: Northern Territory Reserves Board.

Access: Take the Jay Creek road out of Alice Springs towards Glen Helen. The turn off to Serpentine Gorge is marked. 101 kilometres (63 miles).

The main gorge is normally water-filled and is passable by swimming 150m to the far end. An air mattress is required to ferry the gear through the gorge. A long walk is the other altern-

Serpentine Gorge

ative. However, there is ample scope for new routes on cliffs south of the gorge.

FAR NORTH EAST BUTTRESS

To reach this buttress, go through to almost the end of the gorge until it narrows. There is an obvious gendarme on the eastern (right) bank. Right of this and about 200m short of it, is a wall split by numerous cracks. Left of this wall are three slabs.

The climb takes the crack between slabs 2 and 3 (counting from the right). Descent is

Serpentine Gorge

down the northern side of the gendarme.

Gendarme
Far North-East
Buttress

Gorge
(water-filled)

Car Park

Green Helen 27 km
Alice Springs 101 km

Compositine Gorge

OVERVIEW

70m Severe
(15)

1. 40m Climb the crack until a ledge comes in from the left. Piton runner. Climb the overhanging crack, using a No. 1 Chouinard stopper for aid to gain the top. Up easily to a stance and belay. (Jammed NOAC in situ).
2. 30m Continue up the crack until it is possible to traverse left, just below the top, to gain the edge. Across and up easy rock to stance and belay.

John Griffiths

24/3/73

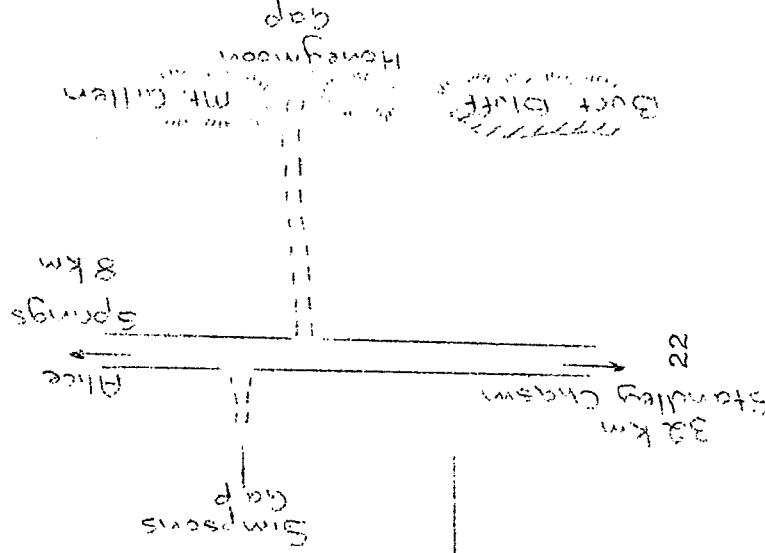
Keith Seddon - (prussiked crux)

BURT BLUFF

Geology: Heavytire Quartzite

Owner: Possibly Jay Creek Native Settlement or Owen Springs.

Descent: Walk down the eastern end of the cliff



Burt Bluff

SUNSTROKE GULL 43m Mod (5)

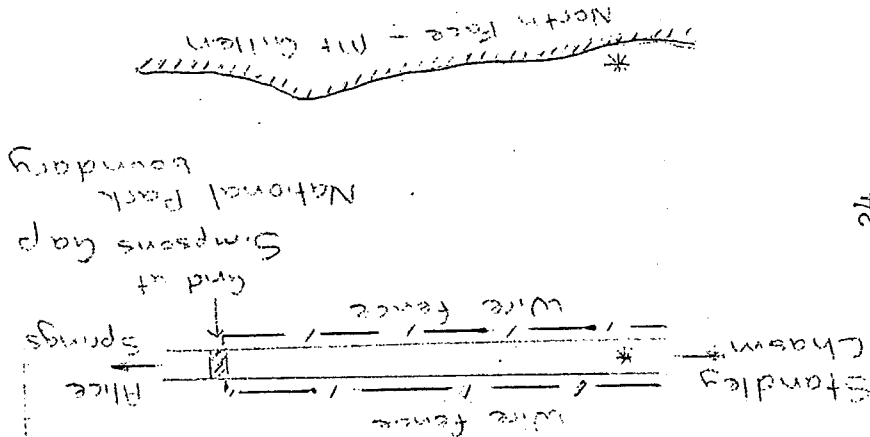
Towards the eastern end of the cliff is an obvious corner. Left of this is an easy looking chimney/corner.

1. 43m Climb this, taking the left alternative where there is a choice. Belay just below the top.

John Griffiths

Felon Griffiths

1/10/72



24

* It is approx 4 km from the park boundary to a position on the road opposite the climb

23

An earlier route of Colin Reese (Sdo) on N. Face mt Gillen was done 12/1972 but exact location unknown. It seemed to be a fairly prominent rockface.

MOUNT GILLEN - NORTH FACE

Geology: Heavitree Quartzite.

Owner: The section mentioned here is in the Simpson Gap National Park and is controlled by the Northern Territory Reserves Board.

Descent: Scramble down from a small col at the western end of the cliff.

ROCKY ROAD TO DUELIN 80m Sev(13)

The climb takes the prominent, solitary corner about 500-600m from the western end of the cliff where it dips down to form a small break -

Mount Gillen - North Face

(descent col). The start is marked by a cairn of rocks.

1. 35m Climb up above the cairn until it is possible to go left to a ledge below a corner leading to a bush. Either go left and then up some ledges until it is possible to step right to below the overhang, or climb straight up the groove to the same point. Go right and up onto the ledge above the bush. Up the groove above to a stance and thread belay below the overhung block.

2. 45m From the ledge on the

HEAVITREE GAP

Mount Gillen - North Face

left, climb the groove to gain broken ground. Over this to the foot of the corner. Follow the corner to the top. Possibly best to belay 5m below the summit and make three pitches.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

Keith Seddon

2/6/73

Geology: Heavitree Quartzite.

Owner: Not known.

Descents: Easily found on the southern side of the range.

When climbing on the Railway cliff, care should be taken not to dislodge rocks as they are very likely to hit the main road below.

HEAVYTREE GAP

RAILWAY CLIFF

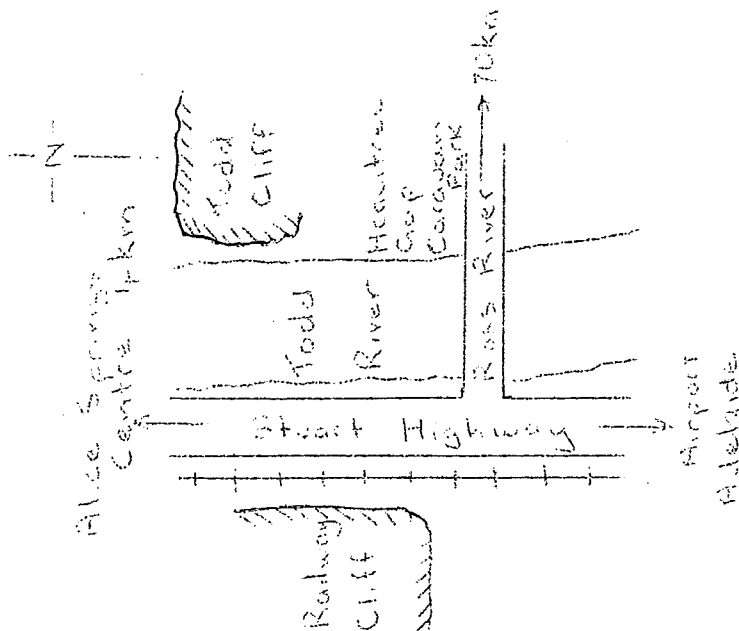
WILLY WILLY 54m V. Diff(10)

At the extreme left end of the cliff is a short, shiny slab which is broken by a diagonal crack.

1. 12m Climb the crack to a stance. No belay or very poor peg.

2. 42m Up a thin crack near the edge of the slab. Go left into a crack leading up to the edge of the roof. Easily over the roof and then over the next roof.

30



29

Heavitree Gap

Straight up and over the third roof. Continue straight up to the top. Nut belay.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

10/9/72

THE SHADOW

73m Diff (7)

Towards the left of the cliff is a series of black slabs with a wall at the left hand end.

Start below the slab that abuts the wall.

1. 40m The climb follows the slab just on the right of the first slab, following a narrow flake. Climb up the centre of the slab to just above the point

Heavitree Gap

where it narrows to meet the flake. Large nut belay.

2. 33m Traverse out right, to the edge. Up until a crack can be seen leading up the centre of the slab. Go left into this and follow to the top of the slab, and thread belay. A short scramble leads to the top of the cliff.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

10/9/72

TODD CLIFF

THE COBBLER

80m Diff.(7)

Starts: Left of Dead Finish is a prominent black slab.

1. 10m Climb the slab to the

Heavitree Gap

roof. Balance left around this and up to a stance and thread belay.

2. 10m Move into the chimney and step left onto the slab. Climb this, then step right, across the gully to thread belay.

3. 27m Step right and up behind belay. Follow the broken rocks diagonally left to a stance and nut belay.

4. 33m Traverse diagonally right across walls under the roofs to finish easily up the slabs.

Heavitree Gap

John Griffiths - alt. leads
Helen Griffiths 3/9/72

DEAD FINISH 93m Mod.(5)

Starts: 8m right of the obvious cliff gum tree, below the obvious corner slab. Not recommended.

1. 40m Up diagonally for 7m then step left into a corner slab. Continue up the slab and step left onto comfortable ledge with thread belays.

2. 33m Up the wall directly behind the ledge to a small tree and continue to a spacious ledge, left of large tree. Thread belay.

EMILY GAP

Heavitree Gap

3. 20m Up easily to finish.

Helen Griffiths

- alt. leads

John Griffiths

3/9/72

TIPTOE

42m Mod (5)

Starts: 7m right of Dead Finish
is a diagonal chimney.

1. 42m Climb the chimney to the
break. Go right, onto the slab.
Climb the left edge up to the
tree. Exhilarating and exposed.
Protected by small runners.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

3/9/72

INTRODUCTION

Emily Gap is the first gap east of Heavitree Gap, along the Ross River road and is under the control of the Northern Territory Reserves Board. The gap itself is often water-filled with one or two waterholes, depending on the depth of the water. This sometimes prevents the use of two of the descent routes. In general, the rock here is not vertical and provides fairly

Emily Gap

easy climbs, though the cliffs are loose in places and require care whilst climbing. The cliffs included here are Heavitree Quartzite.

Emily Gap often has large numbers of visitors as it is a popular picnic spot close to town. Climbers who dislike spectators are advised to climb here in midweek.

There are aboriginal rock paintings in the area and care should be taken not to damage any of these.

Emily Gap

DESCENT ROUTES

The Sundeck: A complicated descent down either end of the cliff.

Main Cliff: (1) Easily down the western end.

(2) Down the gully that is the start of Threllin.

(3) Continue to the top of the hill and down gully at eastern end.

(4) Scramble down the face overlooking the gap. This route starts on the ledge where Side-step finishes.

Emily Gap

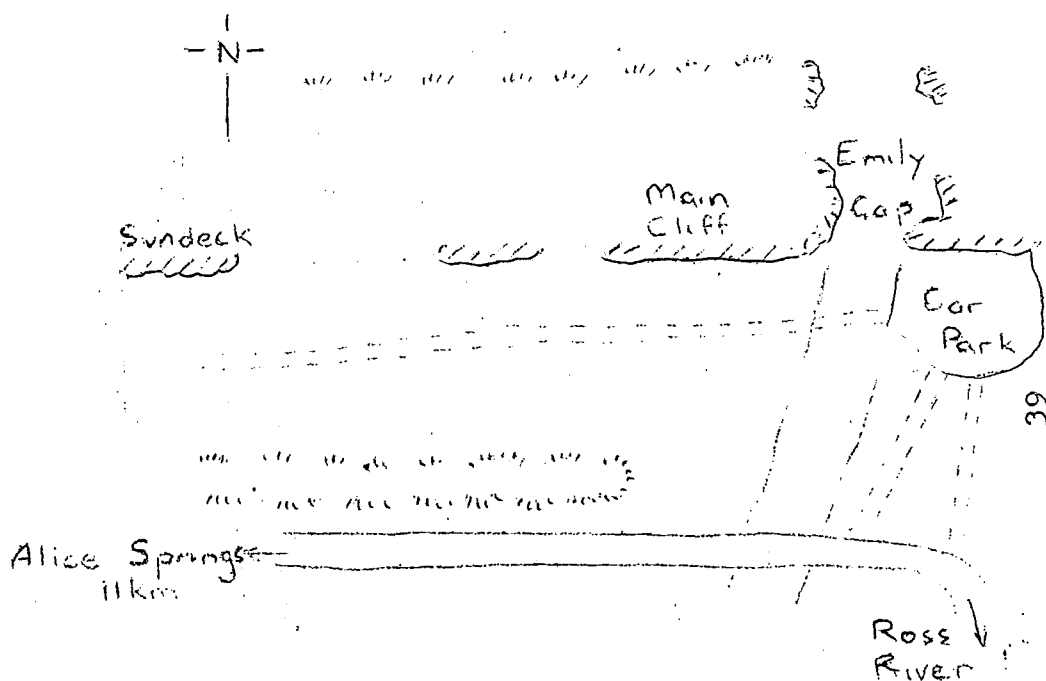
THE SUNDECK

In the centre of the cliff are two obvious lines. The climb takes the right hand one.

SUNDANCE 69m Severe (13)

1. 35m Up the wall to the tree. Up the crack to a ledge. Keep following the cracks to where it goes diagonally left and widens. Up this and around to stance and shockstone belay.
2. 17m Up above the belay to a large ledge. Go right to the wide crack and climb the smooth slab up

40



Emily Gap

to the left. Up the wall to a diagonal line which is followed left to the crack then back up right easily to a large ledge and chockstone belay.

3. 17m Climb a wall to reach a diagonal ramp which is followed to a ledge. Up the wall above easily.

John Griffiths
Helen Griffiths
Fergus Hughes

- mixed leads

22/10/72

Emily Gap

MAIN CLIFF

THE LAST POST 36m Severe (10)

. At the left hand end of the Main Cliff is a flake forming a wide chimney on its right.

1. 23m Climb the chimney to a large ledge.
2. 13m Up the wall behind to a ledge. From the middle of the ledge climb up diagonally left to finish. Not very well protected.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

25/4/73

Emily Gap

TIPSTER

53m V.Diff.(9)

In the middle of the cliff are a brown tree and a white tree (both gums). Climb starts here.

1. 8m Up corner to ledge.
2. 23m Up the corner to a ledge. Climb the corner at the left hand end of the ledge to the large ledge.
3. 10m Climb the corner at the left hand end and then go left until it is possible to go up through the break in the roof.

Emily Gap

4. 12m Up the wall to the break in the roof. Through this to the top.

John Griffiths - mixed leads
Helen Griffiths

25/4/73

CROWN OF THORNS 118m V. Diff. (12)

About 70m left of Wisecrack is a crack leading to a narrow, pale green leafed tree. The climb takes this crack.

1. 44m Climb to the start of the crack. Over the small roofs and up through the bush.

Emily Gap

Straight up to the narrow tree and a good ledge. Spike belays.

2. 40m Up the obvious left hand groove to a small ledge shared by a prickly bush.

Thread belay.

3. 34m Up the corner above the ledge to the roof. Step left around the corner, then up and into the vague crack. Straight up to the ledge. Scramble the last 10m to the top.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

3/12/72

45

Emily Gap

38m Mod. (4)

THRELLIN

To the right hand side of Crown of Torns is a wide gully. The climb starts here.

1. 38m Climb the wide crack/corner on the left of the gully till it degenerates to a scramble. Traverse right to just above a tree to gain a chimney. Up this to the top.

John Griffiths - solo 21/1/73

DIAGON

32m V.Diff. (11)

Start below the wide crack on the right hand side of the gully.

46

Emily Gap

1. 27m Climb the crack until it is possible to gain a ledge on the right, just before the bush. Up the slab just right of the bush to broken ground.

2. 5m Climb the slab above on small holds to the top.

John Griffiths - solo 21/1/73

VEGETATION

57m Diff. (8)

Left of Epiphany is a slab area broken on its left by a wide gully. A few feet right of the gully is a vegetated crack. The climb takes this crack.

Emily Gap

1. 40 m Up through the tree to below a second tree. Avoid this on its left. Return to the crack and up to the bush. Go left again to avoid it.

2. 17m Above here the line breaks into two. Climb the obvious corner to the top.

John Griffiths - solo 21/1/73

EPIPHANY

57m Mod. (6)

Left of Wisecrack is an obvious companion crackline.

Scramble to the foot of the climb.

1. 10m Climb the corner to the

Emily Gap

tree. Go right and up to the ledge. Belay.

2. 30m From the left hand edge of the ledge climb the easy crack to a large ledge on the right.

3. 17m Continue up the crack-line to the top.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths - mixed leads

6/1/73

WISECRACK 50m Diff. (9)

About 10 m left of Sidestep is a large block at the base of the cliff. Scramble to the top of this.

Emily Gap

1. 36m From the left hand side of the block can be seen a short jam crack. Climb this with difficulty to a ledge. Continue up the chimney line until a large ledge is reached on the right. Jam nut and tree belays.

2. 14m Continue up the obvious line to belay on large tree.

John Griffiths

Fergus Hughes

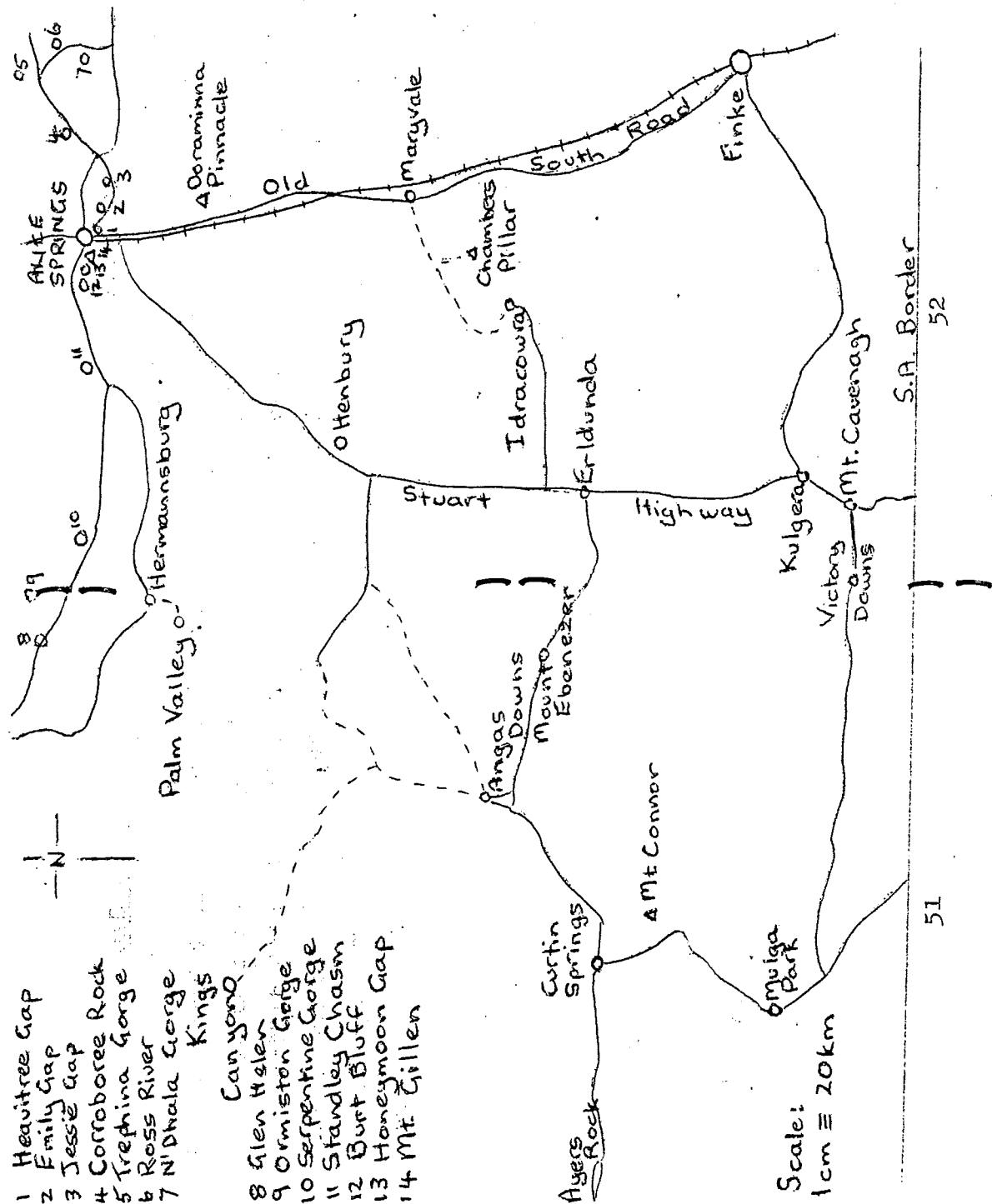
Helen Griffiths

15/10/72

CCIDIGN 33m Mod. (6)

Left of Sidestep is a short

- 1 Heavitree Gap
 - 2 Emily Gap
 - 3 Jessie Gap
 - 4 Corroboree Rock
 - 5 Trephina Gorge
 - 6 Ross River
 - 7 N'Dhala Gorge
- Kings Canyon
- 8 Glen Helen
 - 9 Ormiston Gorge
 - 10 Serpentine Gorge
 - 11 Standley Chasm
 - 12 Burt Bluff
 - 13 Honeymoon Gap
 - 14 Mt. Gillen



Emily Gap

SIDESTEP

29m V. Diff. (11)

Emily Gap

slab behind the twin gums.

Bounding the left edge of the slab is a short, vegetated corner forming the right hand side of the block. Start below this.

1. 5m Climb the corner to the ledge.

2. 28m Climb the crack above to gain a ramp leading right. A few feet along this is a chimney. Up this, then enter the corner above from the right. Up to a large chockstone and step right. Continue up to the top.

John Griffiths - solo 21/1/73

At the right hand (eastern) edge of the cliff by the gap are two gum trees. Immediately right of these trees is a corner crack.

1. 14m Climb the crack to where it bends right. Step across onto a narrow ledge. Difficult thread belay.

2. 15m Continue up corner crack to the top.

John Griffiths

Fergus Hughes

Helen Griffiths

15/10/72

JESSIE GAP

INTRODUCTION

Jessie Gap is now a reserve under the control of the Northern Territory Reserves Board. It is the next gap east of Emily Gap, where Jessie Creek flows through the MacDonnell Ranges. The rock is Heavitree Quartzite.

Although the cliffs appear to be more broken than at Emily Gap, many of the climbs are more interesting and varied than Emily Gap climbs. The rock is loose in spots and care

Jessie Gap

must be taken, especially when tourists are around. There are aboriginal rock paintings in this area. Climbers should take particular care not to damage any of these or disturb the wildlife.

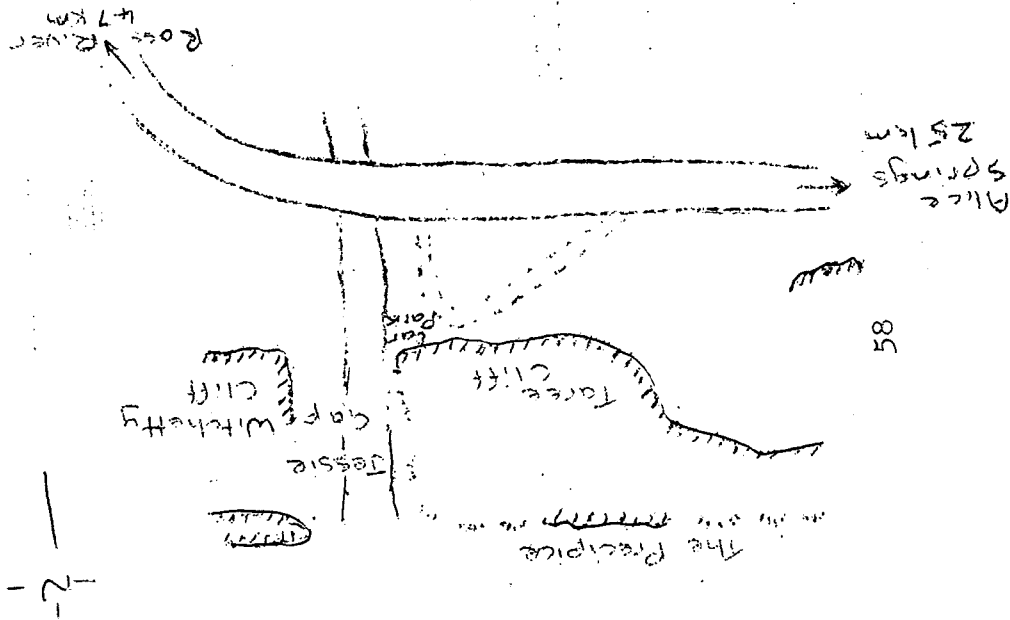
DESCENT ROUTES

1. Down the gully immediately left of Presto.
2. Walk to the far western end of the Taree cliff and down the ramp at the front.
3. Scramble down gully to finish left of the black slab near Arboreal Tactics.
4. From the finish of Deviations, scramble down the gully on the other

Jessie Gap

side.

5. On the eastern end of the Taree cliff it is possible to scramble partway down the back and traverse (exposed) towards the creek, i.e. eastwards. Move down the chimney/crack to the little col at the end of the Taree cliff. From here it is possible to walk to the bottom.



Jessie Gap

TAREE CLIFF

At the far western end of Taree cliff there is a large, sloping boulder-strewn ramp which runs to the top of the ridge, under the cliff. Just above it is a smaller ramp which ends about halfway up in two gullies with a corner just right of them.

PRESTO

30m Mod. (6)

The right hand of the two gullies mentioned above.

1. 30m Up the gully and over two small overhangs to the top.

Keith Seddon

Helen Griffiths

24/6/73

Jessie Gap

MUTATION 32m Severe (13)

The corner mentioned above.

1. 32m Up the corner over good rock to a spike, after which the rock becomes loose. Continue up the corner to the top.

John Griffiths

Keith Seddon

24/6/73

REVEILLE

49m V.Diff. (11)

At the western end of Taree cliff is a black slab. About 30m left and up from the black slab is a large tree. Scramble up about 10m above this to the bottom of an obvious crack.

Jessie Gap

1. 35m Up the left diagonal crack, then up the short ramp on the right to the slanting corner. Move up diagonally left under this to a ledge.
2. 14m Climb the crack at the right hand side of the small slab above, through the break and left around the bulge to the top.

John Griffiths - alt. leads
Keith Seddon
Helen Griffiths 24/6/73

ARBOREAL TACTICS 20m Mod. (6)

At the right hand end of the black slab is a corner leading

Jessie Gap

to a narrow chimney.

1. 20m Climb the corner then up the narrow chimney to the tree. Belay on the ledge.

Scramble to the top.

John Griffiths
Helen Griffiths
Keith Seddon 8/4/73

NATURAL SELECTION 40m V.Diff(10)

The wide crack/corner to the right of Arboreal Tactics.

1. 23m Climb the wide crack, then up and right, onto a large ledge (large cracker belay possible here). Continue up smooth

Jessie Gap

corner to a large ledge and belay.
2. 17m Continue up line until it is possible to go right and around onto exposed face. Up the vee-notch to the top.

Keith Seddon

John Griffiths 17/2/73

ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES

37m Mod. (6)

The corner right of Natural Selection.

1. 37m Easily up the corner to where it narrows. Up the tight chimney to the top.

John Griffiths

Keith Seddon

11/3/73

Jessie Gap

EVOLUTION

38m Diff. (8)

This climb takes the obvious chimney splitting the centre of the next face around from Origin of the Species.

1. 12m Climb the crack to ledge and thread belay.

2. 26m Up the chimney and

climb this and its continuation to the top.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

31/12/72

DEBUT

1. 12m As for Evolution.

2. 27m Move to the right hand

Jessie Gap

Jessie Gap

end of the ledge at the top of the first pitch of Evolution. Climb up the crack until it is possible to move into the gully to the left. Belay here.

Keith Seddon
Pat Russell

28/4/73

GENESIS

10m Severe (15)

To the right of Debut is a smooth slab.

1. 10m Climb the crack in the slab which leads directly up to the tree. Stand in a sling at the top of the slab to reach handhold.

John Griffiths

Keith Seddon - Eliminated aid.

18/3/73

65

PRIMATE

57m Diff. (8)

Right of Genesis slab is a prominent crack. 2m right is a shattered groove leading up to join the crack at the overhang.

1. 13m Climb the shattered groove to the junction with the crack. Traverse left to tree filled ledge. Belay.

2. 44m Above the ledge is an obvious slab. Step right onto the slab. Move up until forced out left. A prominent spike can be seen just left. Climb the

66

Jessie Gap

groove to its right, and then up over easy ground to below the obvious hanging block. Climb the right crack/corner to the top.

Keith Seddon - Alt. leads
John Griffiths 18/3/73

PROCREATION 43m V.Diff. (10)

Right of Genesis slab is a prominent crack.

1. 37m Climb the crack until it is necessary to step right, onto the wall. Move up into the crack again which is followed up to a ledge and belay.

67

Jessie Gap

2. 6m Above are three obvious cracks. Climb the left hand one.

John Griffiths
Helen Griffiths
Keith Seddon 8/4/73

2nd pitch soloed.

VALGUS 63m Severe (13)

Right of Procreation is an obvious, very wide gully. Scramble about 33m up behind the fig tree to gain the foot of this gully.

1. 25m Climb easily up the left hand gully to below a black slab. Belay either on slab or in right

68

Jessie Gap

hand gully.

2. 30m Continue up left hand gully to where it steepens. Follow the crack up to below overhang (crux). Go left around overhang to stance and large chockstone belay.

3. 8m Easily to the top.

John Griffiths - Keith Seddon

Helen Griffiths

12/8/73

DEVIATIONS

37m Mod. (6)

This takes the right hand side of the gully starting under a large chockstone.

Jessie Gap

1. 37m Climb under the chockstone then straight up right hand chimney to the top.

Keith Seddon

Helen Griffiths

John Griffiths

28/4/73

On the far eastern end of Taree cliff are two cracks with a common beginning leading to a large chockstone.

THE WEB

35m Diff. (9)

The left hand one of the two cracks mentioned above.

Jessie Gap

WITCHETTY CLIFF

SHADY LANE 67m Sev. (11)

Starts by the tree in the gully opposite the car park.

(A 46m, i.e. 150', rope is necessary. Protection is poor and rock is loose).

1. 40m On the slab on left side of the gully. Climb the corner about 3m down from the tree. Follow the corner to where it steepens to a short wall. Over this to a small ledge. Move up the slab bounded by the wide

Jessie Gap

back on its right, then go into the groove. Large cracker belay to stance. (May be possible to find a better stance a few feet higher).

27m Traverse left across easy slab, (ignoring the obvious corner) to the far edge. Round this exposed) to gain easy ridge. Belay well back.

John Griffiths
Keith Seddon

10/2/73

Jessie Gap

THE PRECIPICE

ZREDEDE

87m Sev. (9)

The start is about halfway along The Precipice cliff and is marked by a small cairn of rocks. (The first pitch is steeper than it appears from the bottom and is poorly protected).

1. 47m Up for about 3m.

Diagonally right then left for about 5m and up to white slab. Traverse right and up to grassy area and block belay.

2. 6m Up easily to thread belay below large corner.

75

Jessie Gap

3. 34m Easily up corner to the top.

John Griffiths alt. leads
Helen Griffiths 28/4/73

76

CORROBOREE ROCK

Geology: Bitter Springs Formation.
(Dolomite).

Owner: Northern Territory
Reserves Board.

Descent: An easy climb down the
end nearest the car park.

The rock is very sharp and
painful to climb on, and is
probably best visited on the way
to other cliffs. The approximate
positions of the climbs are
marked on the map.

THE OLD SOLDIER 25m Diff. (8)

Start where a track leads away

Corroboree Rock

from the rock.

1. 25m Climb the easy crack line
to large ledge. Up the corner to
the top.

John Griffiths
Helen Griffiths.

Keith Seddon 6/5/73

MORSEL 7m Mod. (4)

1. 7m Just before the end of the
rock are two short, twin cracks.
Climb the left hand one.

John Griffiths (Solo) 6/5/73

WITCHDOCTOR 25m V.Diff. (10)

Starts at the highest point of
the slope leading up to the rock,

Corroboree Rock

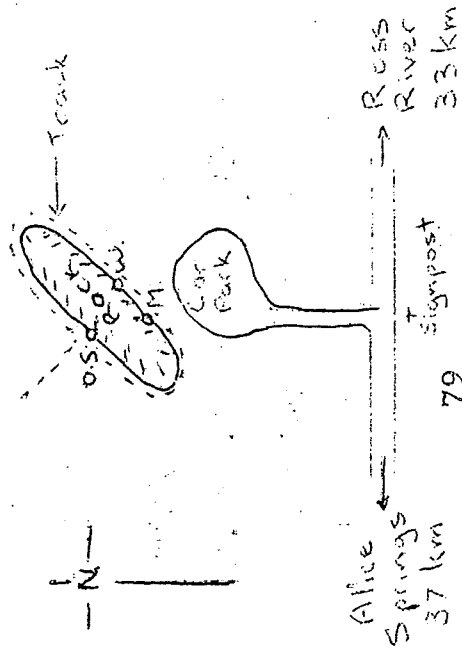
on the car park side.

1. 25m Climb directly up the vertical crack to the first ledge, 3m, (crux). Then climb up the obvious diagonal crack to the left. Not a pleasant climb.

Keith Seddon

Helen Griffiths

6/5/73



O.S. The Old Soldier
W. Witchdoctor
M. Morsel

TREPINA GORGE

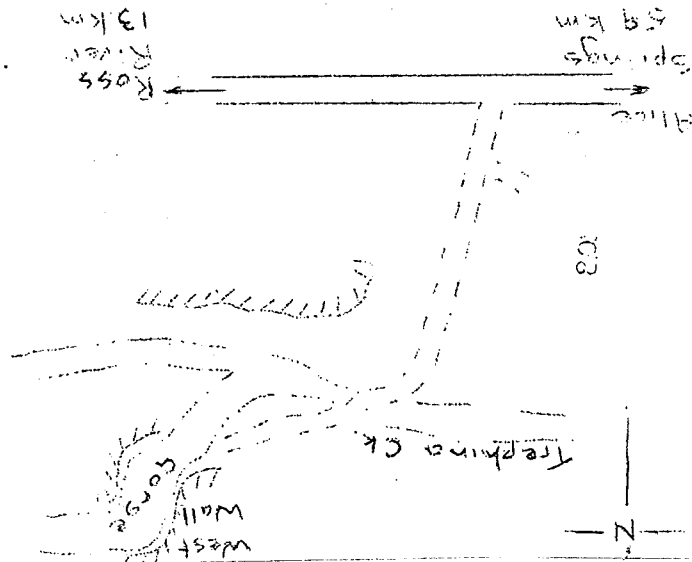
Geology: Heavitree Quartzite.

Owner: Northern Territory

Reserves Board.

Access: See map.

Descent from West Wall: Scramble down wherever possible.



Trephina Gorge

THE EXECUTIONER

15m V.S. (16)

Up the creek from the picnic area is a continuous stand of gum trees on the western side of the gorge. Where these end are some rock paintings low down on the cliff.

The climb starts here.

1. 15m Up the overhang to gain the chimney. Follow this to gain large ledge and belay. Scramble to the finish.

John Griffiths

(Unseconded)

26/5/73

Trephina Gorge

RAVEN

40m Sev. (12)

The climb takes a large prominent crack on the left hand side of the buttress about 300m up from the start of the gorge, and 100m short of the waterhole (on the western side).

Start at the obvious point at the bottom of the crack.

1. 40m Climb up the ledges to the crack, then straight up the crack to the roof. Move right around the roof (crux) then continue up the ledges and belay at the top.

Keith Seddon

John Griffiths

26/5/73

Trepahina Gorge

PLATYPODA:

30m V. Diff.
(9)

About 20m left of waterhole
is a small stand of young gum
trees on the western side of the
gorge.

1. 30m Climb the right hand
corner (containing fig tree) be-
hind this stand of trees.

John Griffiths

Helen Griffiths

Keith Seddon

26/5/73

OORAHINNA PINNACLE

Geology: Hermannsburg Sandstone
with possibly small outcrops of
Mereenie Sandstone.

Owner: Probably Deep Well Stn.

Descent: It is possible to walk
off the summit, down the eastern
side.

MARTINET

22m Severe (13)

Start: Approximate position of
the crack is marked on the map.

1. 22m Climb the obvious crack at
the far left hand end of the face,
directly above the end of the
ledge.

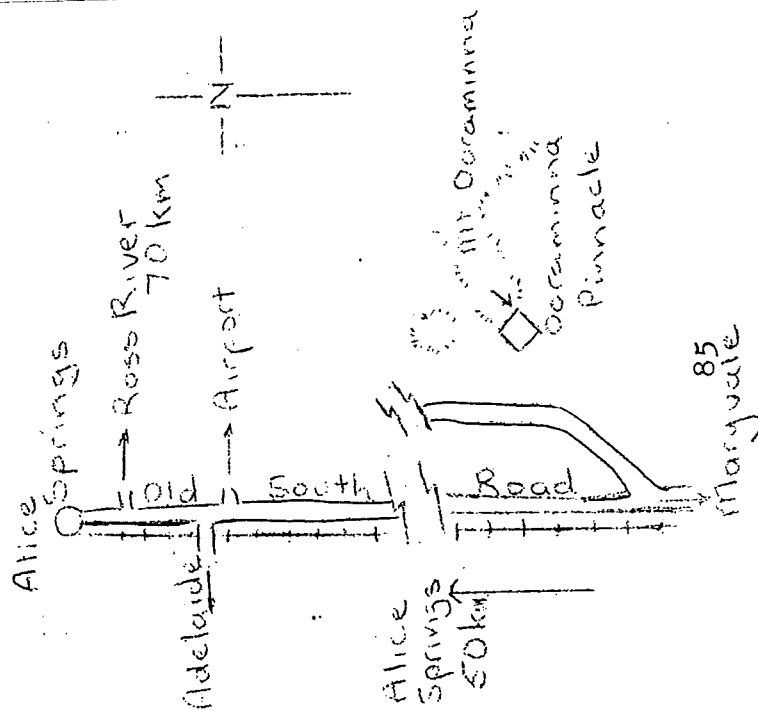
Oorainna Pinnacle

(This is on the NE side of the Pinnacle.)

John Griffiths

Keith Seddon

15/4/73



CHAMBERS · PILLAR

Geology: Santo Sandstone.

Owner: Northern Territory Reserves Board.

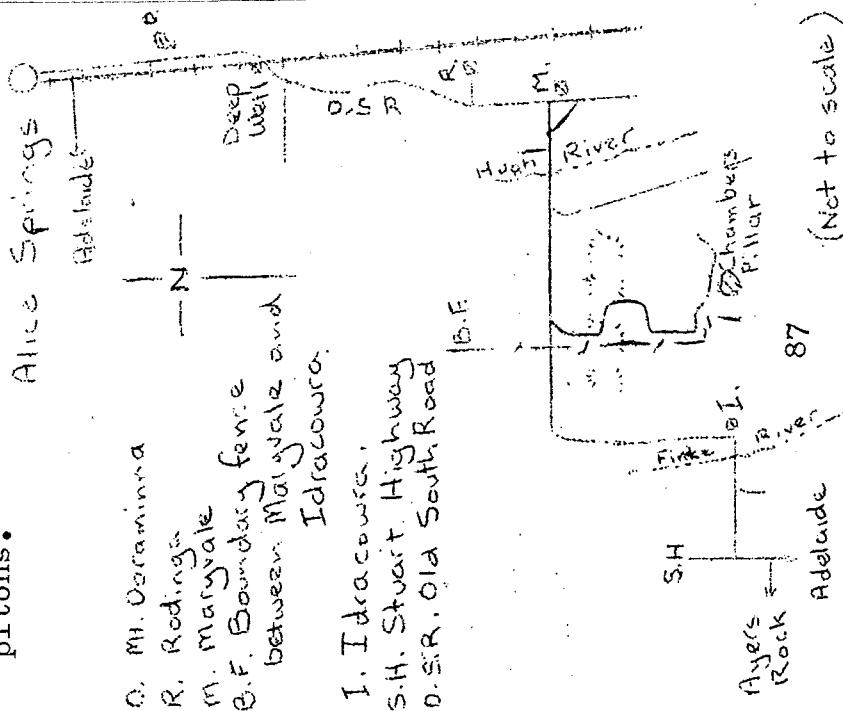
Descent: Abseil - two ropes are necessary.

Access: See map. Four wheel drive vehicle, or one suited to crossing sand dunes is essential to reach this pillar.

The rock is extremely poor and any climb on the pillar will probably necessitate the use of mechanical techniques. A good range of equipment is useful, but particu-

Chambers Pillar

larly necessary are long, thin
pitons.



Alice Springs to Chambers Pillar
(via Old South Road) is approx. 157 km.

Chambers Pillar

WEST FACE 30m Extremely Sev. (14)

M4

Towards the northern end of the western face of the pillar is an obvious groove.

1. 30m Free climb the groove to the ledge. Go left to the foot of another groove which is pegged using mainly angles. Free move at the top of the groove, and then a peg may be necessary here to place small cracker in the overhang.

Standing in etriers on the cracker, reach round to the right to place a peg. Onto this and up to last

AYERS ROCK - MOUNT OLGA NATIONAL

PARK

Chambers Pillar

peg (in situ). Free the crack to reach the left of the obvious flake. Move right to the far end of the flake, then up and easily to the top.

John Griffiths
Helen Griffiths
Keith Seddon

10/6/73

Geology: Ayers Rock - Arkose

Sandstone.

Mount Olga - Conglomerate.

Owner: Northern Territory Reserves Board.

N.B. Climbing is not permitted in this park at present (1973).
Anybody wishing to climb here should contact the Head Ranger to see if the situation has altered.

AYERS ROCK

THE KANGAROO TAIL

(Ngaltawaddi - Digging Stick)

410m Extremely Sev.
(16).

Starts on the north side of
Ayers Rock, on the right hand side
of the Kangaroo Tail.

Equipment needed: 3 bolt
brackets and 2 No. 5 Chouinard
stoppers. A 50m rope.

Unprotected and spectacularly
exposed. The flakes are very
loose. The technical grading for
each pitch is given immediately
after the pitch length. All runners
are mentioned.

Ayers Rock

1. 48m (11) Chimney up to hanging
bolt belay in chimney. No runners
and it is difficult to find bolt.
2. 46m (11) Up chimney - bolt
runner at 23m. Up to bolt belay on
a tiny stance.
3. 37m (14) Chimney up the flaring
right side of the Tail (2 nut runners)
until forced out onto the face,
about 8m below the long overhang.
Face climb right below the overhang
to bolt belay just past where the
overhang peters out, about 12m short
of the groove.
4. 37m (13) Climb straight above
the belay to bolt runner at 15m.

Ayers Rock

Traverse up into the groove, which is bridged to a bolt belay in a

good basin.

5. 46m (12) Bridge for about 12m then move onto the left face. Continue up the wall, past the steepening, then back into the groove.

No belay.

6. 12m (12) Bridge to the next basin, below a long, steep part of the groove. No Belay.

7. 46m (16) Climb the very steep, hard left hand wall (crux) onto the shoulder. Up the wall, then back into the groove. Follow this until the point where it is possible to unrope. Climbing time is about 4 hrs.

Ayers Rock

the rope runs out.

8. 46m (8) Bridge the groove.

9. 46m (8) Continue up the easing groove.

10. 46m (8) Follow the groove until it runs out and the tourist ramp comes into sight. Unrope and walk west to the summit cairn.

Keith Lockwood - varied-leads
Andrew Thomson

15/5/73

Note: The last two or three pitches are a bit confused. It is very easy and there may be some discrepancies in the length and number of pitches.

The climb may, in fact, be only 335m to the point where it is possible to unrope. Climbing time is about 4 hrs.

ROBIN FALLS

Geology: Not known.

Owner: Not known.

Access: The falls are about 145 kilometres (90 miles) south of Darwin. About 120m downstream from the falls proper, on the right hand bank is a rock buttress approximately 25m above the stream.

SUNDAY MORNING

30m Mod. (5)

Start at the right hand side of the buttress at the bottom of the gully.

Robin Falls

1. 30m Climb the left hand wall of the gully to a notch in the nose of the ridge, where there is a small ledge. Step left onto the face and up a few metres to the ridge again, then along the flattening ridge to finish.

Garth Powell

Keith Seddon

April 1972

OTHER CLIMBS & RECOMMENDED AREAS

ORMISTON GORGE: The pound will probably provide more worthwhile climbing than the gorge itself.

STANDLEY CHASM: Gordon and Pam Oates are believed to have put up a mechanical climb on the right hand side of the chasm, just as you enter the narrow, vertical walls. Permission to climb here should be obtained from Jay Creek Native Settlement or the Ranger.

Other Climbs & Recommended

Areas.

HONEYMOON GAP: The easy slabs on the southern side of the western cliff were climbed by Gordon and Pam Oates in 1968-1969. Two lines on the western cliff appear interesting, but the rest of the area is rather devoid of natural lines, though there is ample rock in the vicinity.

UNDOOLYA GAP: The next gap east of Jessie Gap. There are a number of cliffs on the northern side that seem worthy of attention. Permission to climb here should be obtained from Undoolya Station.

Other Climbs & Recommended Areas

ROSS RIVER & N'DHALA GORGE: A few miles on from Trep'hina Gorge.

Worthy of closer investigation, especially as there is a wide variety of rock-type in this area.

PALM VALLEY & FINKE RIVER GORGE:

About 14 miles (23 kilometres) past Hermannsburg Mission. A four wheel drive vehicle is necessary to get within reasonable distance of most, though not all of the cliffs around here.

KINGS CANYON: Again, a four wheel drive vehicle is necessary, but the area may have some worth-while climbing.

Other Climbs & Recommended

Areas

MT. CONNOR: South of the Ayers Rock road near Curtin Springs. A large face of rock (sandstone), about 100m high, though few obvious continuous lines. A four wheel drive vehicle helps access, but is not essential. Permission to climb here should be obtained from Curtin Springs Station.

CHRISTOPHER PINNACLE: Near Henbury on the main South Road (Stuart Highway).

RIGAUD TOWER: Near Deep Well Stn., off the old South Road.

Other Climbs & Recommended Areas

CORAMITINA RANGES: Many small outcrops, but may hold larger ones.

WIGLEYS WATERHOLE: A few miles north of Alice Springs - short cliffs and boulder problems.

BARROW CREEK: A few scattered short outcrops in the area.

THE DEVIL'S MARBLES: granite boulder problems.

U.D.P. FALLS:

About 90 kilometres (50-60 miles) north-east of Pine Creek on the El Shirana Road. There are also some sandstone outcrops around here attempted (but failed) 1975 winter.

Other Climbs & Recommended

Areas

The above list does not set out to be exhaustive, but may be of use to anybody on a flying visit to the Northern Territory.

There is a great deal of potential for climbing in the Top End and the Centre, especially in the MacDonnell Ranges.

Remaining areas have been left for discovery by other climbers.

NEW CLIMBS

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NEW CLIMBS

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NEW CLIMBS

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NEW CLIMBS

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