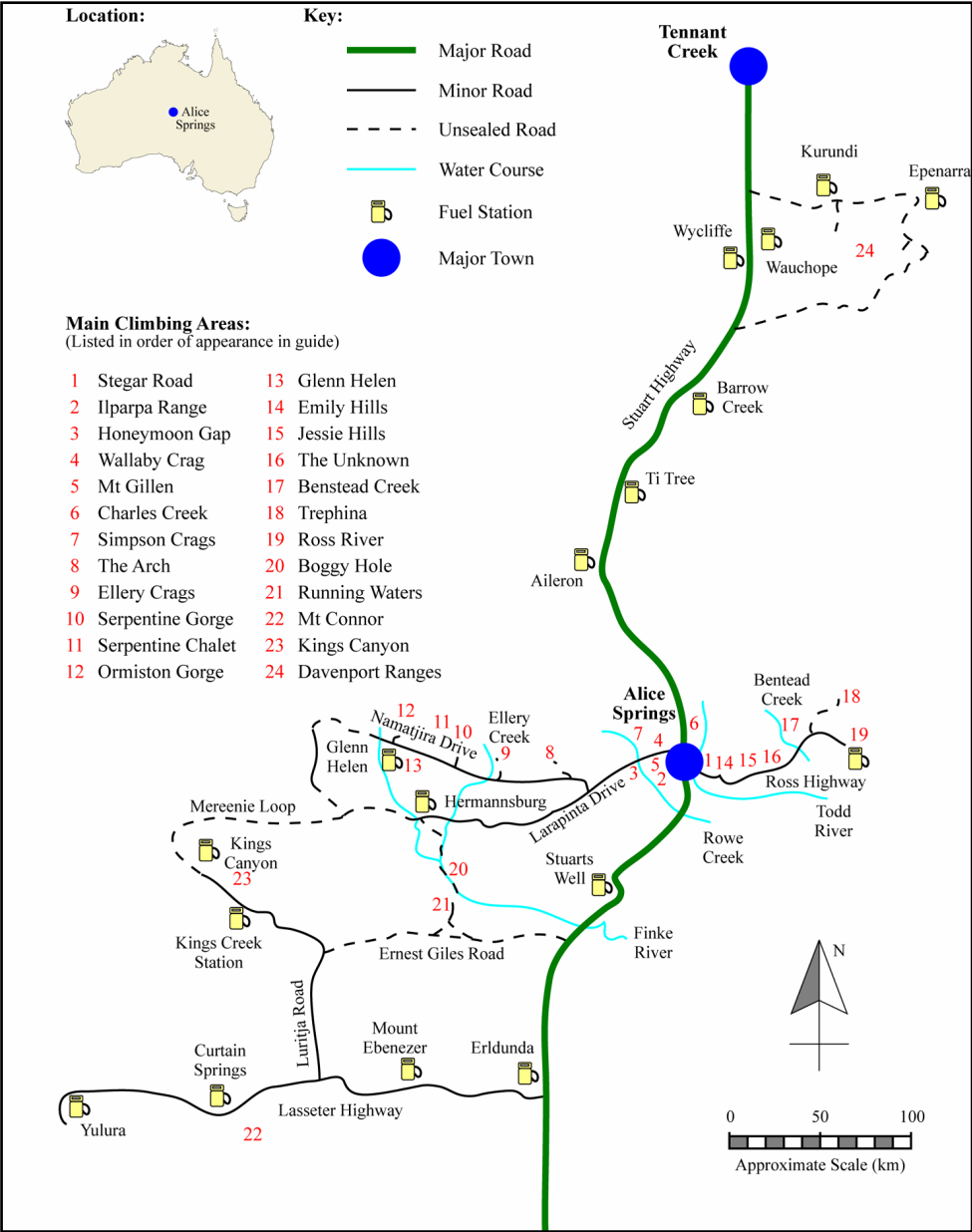


Rock Climbing in Central Australia



Krish Seewraj



Location Map

Rock Climbing in Central Australia

Krish Seewraj

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.

Published March 2005

ISBN 0-9750311-1-2

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Front Cover: Lisa Seewraj belayed by Justin Harrison on Route 9 - 8

Rear Cover: Krish Seewraj on the first ascent of Stitching Time - 19

Acknowledgements

There have been a number of previous attempts to write a climbing guide for this area. This guide contains information from all known sources in addition to the records I have kept. Thanks go to the following climbers who took the time to record their activity in this area:

Helen & John Griffiths	1972 - 1973
Simon Mentz	1990 - 1993
Kieran Culhane	1993 - 1997
Goshen Watts	1996 - 2001
Jock Morse	1999 - 2002
Garn Cooper	2003 - 2005

Many other people have encouraged, helped and tolerated my at times over enthusiastic approach to both climbing and this guide. They are listed in other parts of this guide, so do not need listing here. My thanks goes to them.

Introduction

Climbing in Alice Springs is a unique experience, barely comparable to the more established areas that the modern climber frequents. Perhaps it has something to do with the timeless pace of the desert, or the age of the MacDonnell ranges. Whatever it is that sets apart the climbing up here in the centre, it is certainly different for each of us. In an attempt to capture a small slice of that experience, I asked two people to describe how they would introduce the place and what it has to offer to someone who had never been before.

The two people I asked were Steve Thornton and Mark Rewi, both of them have been involved in climbing in the area for some time. Steve Thornton has had a long history of climbing in the area, having climbed on and off since 1995, when the Yerba's were going strong. In my first four years here Steve wasn't getting out and it is only recently that he has started climbing again. I would describe climbing with Steve as a calming experience. On the other hand climbing with Mark Rewi is the complete opposite, as he is somewhat of a machine who some would claim never stops, not even to sleep. Since 1998 he has done a lot to help develop the area, including encouraging me to climb at a level I never before dared go to.

From Steve "I wish I had a dollar for every time I've been asked "So what's there to do in Alice Springs?" People are usually just as surprised to find out that there is great rock climbing to be had around Alice Springs, as they are to learn that you can not see Uluru from the main street. I first came to the Alice in 1995 and discovered the desert is a big outdoor playground with some of the best bushwalking and mountain biking to be had anywhere, there's even spectacular gorges to float through.

Life in Alice Springs is unique. The pace of life, the sense of community amongst the people and the ranges that can be seen from any location all make for an inspirational place to be.

The climbing is no different. There's something for everyone, whether you're into clipping bolts or trouser filling traditional routes, and everything in-between. Beautiful red cliffs rise straight out of a desert that seems to stretch on forever. Other places may have longer routes but it doesn't get more peaceful than sitting at a belay taking in that space.

The rock can be solid and clean or loose and brittle, but most often a bit of both. When you're climbing in one of the oldest mountain ranges on earth you've got to expect a bit of loose stuff.

This guide has been a long time in the making. Many people over the years have written up climbs and area descriptions, typed them up and made a few copies. But if you didn't know the right people it was impossible to find out accurate information.

Krish has collected information from all known sources and discovered some lesser known history along the way. Combined with simple maps, this guide is as invaluable to the visiting climber as a good selection of nuts. In his spare time he's managed to put up about one hundred and fifty new routes. Not a bad effort.

Come to Central Australia and you'll do some memorable lines. The climbs on the more popular cliffs are on superb, clean rock after repeated ascents. The less visited areas are just as good but might require a bit of a walk, and most likely a bit of a drive. It's adventurous stuff and the potential for new discoveries and new routing is limited only by the size of your fuel tank, and the size of those other nuts you'll need in your bolder moments.

Come just as much though to sleep in a swag under a blanket of stars, sit around a campfire having a drink with friends telling stories as big as the landscape. It's a great experience just being out there even if your harness never leaves your pack. It may also be wise to pack a lid, and leave your spandex pants at home, because when you've got the place to yourself there's no one around to impress."

From Mark "Getting up at 4.30am seems too early in the mountains, and it seems even earlier in town. A splash of water on the face, a quick coffee, then on the bike round to Krish's place. Cup of tea, bit of toast, then out to the quarry at sunrise and all is forgiven. The cliff at the top of the hill is splashed red with the first rays of yet another perfect desert day. Behind us the West MacDonnell Ranges stretch out to the horizon, deep purple, cloaked in the mornings gold and pink. Its 5.15am, 20 degrees. Perfect. We are five minutes from town.

The hill up to the quarry is short but very sharp. It doesn't seem to matter how many times we've done this, we always find a slightly different way, a few more grass burrs. The tracks aren't always obvious in Central Australia, even close to town, but you can always see where you're heading. Past the boulders at the bottom, steep, hard quartzite (might leave those till winter). Then head for a cliff. Right for the classics, left for untapped potential... what'll it be today? Crack or face? Sport or trad? Old or new route? All within a few steps.

So many days seem to start like that in the Alice, all thriving possibilities. Many choices, but little need to rush. A morning climb at the horseyard or a weekend swagging beneath endless stars. Climbing fun or hard or heady, whatever you might choose.

And there's still so much to do. Despite Krish's best efforts Central Australia still has more unclimbed cliffs than you can shake a fist at. So while it might be a bit leaner at the quarry these days, there are still endless new routes to be had for anyone with a hardy soul and a thrill for adventure.

Today I'm getting smashed. Just can't pull the moves. Doesn't seem to matter up here though. Everything is just so timeless. The mountains have made it through 100 million years, guess they'll still be here 5.30am tomorrow morning too. Fire up the stove, put on another brew, watch the world wake up on the streets below. Sublime.

It's easy to see why Krish fell in love with this place. No less impressive the passion and effort he has shown in putting together this little history.

Best come see for yourself."

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Section 1 - Editor's Note

Visitors should be aware that there are land access issues peculiar to the Northern Territory. Local climbers tend to be respectful of these so please follow the advice and requests as listed in this guide. I urge anyone coming here to climb to read Section 3 & 4, especially the first paragraph of Section 3, so you can gain some appreciation of these issues.

Having lived and climbed here for five years, I have acclimatised to routes that have an ability to change on every ascent. UFO (18) being a prime example, where on each successive attempt yet another hold would crumble sending me flying. Not to say that all the rock here is dire but there have certainly been some very precarious moments. I have tried to compile this guide with this in mind but have no doubt that people who venture here will find it somewhat daunting. Don't be put off and if you have the time search out the gems that exist in the area, you'll be pleasantly surprised.

I was inspired to write this guide after a brilliant year's climbing in 2002. This particular year was made so good in part due to Jason Geres making Wednesday mornings free so we could split the working week with a climb and make life more enjoyable. The return of Mark Rewi, in a much more relaxed mood than ever before, and the arrival of Pat Spiers also assisted in making the year as good as it was. With the help of these three people, we managed to push the level of climbing up a notch and established a number of really good quality areas, most notably Left Wall at Stegar Road. Whilst Lisa didn't strap on a harness much that year, her tolerance in allowing me to indulge my rock fetish was nevertheless boundless.

After 2002 the rate of activity slowed considerably. This was in part due to Elsey coming into the world but, also due to the changing nature of climbers in the region. Nonetheless we still continue find plenty of places, old and new, to explore and are lucky to have an abundance of potential new climbs for the picking. When asked why I have enjoyed climbing in the centre so much. I think of the many times we have sat in a remote location at the bottom of an untouched wall, with a serene atmosphere and no crowds. At times like these everything simply feels right.

I have continually updated the guide since it was first released as a CD in January 2003; to correct typos, improve descriptions and add new information as has been discovered. But it wasn't until Warwick Williams bought a copy of the guide, and started to encourage me to take the next step, that I seriously considered having it published in hard copy. I feel the guide does some justice to this little known area and manages to bring to life all the hard work and satisfaction that people have had in putting up the many routes. It is hoped that people who use this publication will keep in touch and provide feedback about their experiences in using this guide and, for the more adventurous, finding new routes.

Krish Seewraj, February 2005

Section 2 - History

The history given in this section comprises extracts from old records and snippets from more recent events. These are historical records and some of the routes mentioned here are in areas where climbing is currently banned and therefore, the route and often crag descriptions have not been recorded, see Section 4.

Climbing in Central Australia has been a bit like the rock of the area, erratic. Many climbers have passed through, some stayed a few days and others years. With no consistent core and ever changing faces there have been many small groups of climbers, some active at the same time but unaware of what others have been doing. The area is vast and offers an abundance of rock, much of which looks good from afar but after battling with spinifex ridden, rocky approaches are disappointing. There are however some great climbing areas that have been found since climbing activities have been recorded in the area, with the earliest recorded events occurring in 1968.

The following extract is taken from the "Guide to Rock Climbs in the Northern Territory" written by Helen and John Griffiths in September 1973. It is recounted in its entirety with occasional editors notes made in bold.

*"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 are not available, these climbs have not been included in the main text of the guide (**the records were very scant and of little use, and have not been included**).*

*After 1969, no more climbs were recorded until July 1972 when Garth Powell and Keith Seddon put up "Sunday Morning" (**grade 5**) 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 "Kangaroo Tail" (Ngaltawaddi - Digging Stick) at Ayers Rock (**Uluru**) in July, by Andrew Thomson and Keith Lockwood. They succeeded in climbing about 140m before one of the park rangers ordered them down and made them leave the park (**climbing at Uluru (Ayes Rock), Kata Tjuta (the Olgas) and Watarrka (Kings Canyon) is now banned**).*

*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: Heavytree Gap; Emily Gap; Jessie Gap and Burt Bluff. During this time Fergus Hughes also 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 equipment and psychological problems (caused by extremely poor rock) forced a retreat (**climbing at Chambers Pillar is now banned**).*

*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" (**grade 15 M1**), 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 Mt Gillen, Ooraminna Pinnacle, Corroboree rock, Trephina Gorge and Glen Helen. These three also did the first ascent of Chambers Pillar (**grade 14**) in June 1973 a few weeks after*

the completion of “Kangaroo Tail” (grade 16) in May by Lockwood & Thompson. These last two climbs are the most serious undertakings, so far in the Northern Territory.”

Between 1973 and 1989 there are no written records of climbing in Central Australia, however the following extract is taken from an account given by Bill Delano for the period of June 1974 to December 1976.

“I learned to rock climb thanks to some climbers passing through the Alice with whom I no longer have contact. We survived the brittle sandstone and lurking snakes, and did numerous climbs, including ascents at Heavitree Gap (beside the tracks), Emily Gap, Trephina Gorge, Simpson's Bluff, and one particular climb to the East of Alice on a prominent pinnacle that was quite a showpiece. We were devout followers of Chouinard clean climbing dogma - placed no bolts, and didn't use chalk. The group of climbers active in Alice Springs at the time were: Ken Jones, Jill Watkinson, Ted Malthouse, John Hart, Tom Moore and Peter Walton.”

Any climbing that was carried out between 1976 and 1989 now only exists in the memories of those who made the ascents. Rick White, Doug Scott and Sharu Prabhu visited the centre in 1989 and were known to have done two lines in Watarrka (Kings Canyon). They also wrote up another route on Mt Conner but the description was somewhat vague. About the same time a small group of young school leavers including Danny Brennan, Danny Priestler and Shane who was known as Snowy, started climbing. Between 1989 and 1992 they visited local areas including Charles Creek, the Quarry Wall, Emily Hills, Jessie Hills and Benstead Creek. They top roped and soloed most routes until they met a local tree surgeon known only as Mike, who introduced them to lead climbing and bolting. Together in 1990 they probably placed all the bolts at Charles Creek and later on placed the “D” shackle bolts that used to exist on the climb now known as “Lord of the D Shackles” (21); unfortunately there are no written records of their achievements. In the same year that Charles Creek was bolted two other climbers came to stay in the town, but they are not known to have climbed together. Catherine Fitzpatrick took novices out to the cliffs teaching them as they climbed, there are again no records of these activities. The other was Roark Muhlen-Schulte, an experienced climber with a reputation for putting up hard, bold routes.

It is rumoured that Roark was responsible for placing most of the bolts at Tjilka, Ormiston Bluff and the Quarry Wall. The only published material comes from Simon Mentz's annual visits coming to the centre to climb with Roark. Together they moved Central Australia climbing into the modern era with the highly controversial first ascent of “Tjilka” (26) in 1992, see Section 14.7. Simon Mentz also climbed with James McIntosh and Jan van der Meulen putting up new routes at the Unknown and Trephina Gorge, including two lines at the Unknown that they part bolted one being the excellent “Superfreak” (20). Roark married and left Alice Springs in 1993 but not before climbing “Pre-Nuptual Adventures” (23).

Kieran Culhane came to town in 1992 and in 1993 joined forces with newcomers Damian Auton and Libby Evans. They repeated local routes and put up many new climbs, old and some new friends joined this small climbing team and they became known as the Yerbas. This group of people was incredibly devoted to climbing and the construction of the YMCA climbing wall in 1994 can be attributed to their enthusiasm, especially Damian Auton who designed the wall and oversaw its construction. In September 1994 a climbing competition/fun day was held at the rock wall. This brought renewed interest from retired climbers and kindled interest from plenty of beginners; as such the climbing community in Alice Springs grew larger than ever before. In March 1995 the Yerbas put out a local climbing rag called 'Crank It' of which six issues were produced over 18 months.

Another prominent climber, making annual trips to the centre from 1995, was Goshen Watts who originally completed many new routes by teaming up with the Yerbas. However, Damian, Libby and Kieran left Alice Springs for cooler climates in late 1996 and the era of the Yerbas left with them, but not before Damian and Goshen placed the bolts on the visionary “Non Stop Action Groove” (28) a climb that was not to be ascended until five years later. In 1996, the next significant step in centralian climbing occurred with a whirlwind tour by a group of high profile Victorian climbers including Malcolm Matheson (HB), Glen Tempest, Simon Mentz, Chris Peisker, Michael Hampton and quite a few more. Many new climbs were put up, notably “Downwind of Vomit” (18) and “The Nose” (24). New areas that were opened up during this tour included Kings Canyon, Mt Conner and Ross River.

Between 1996 and 1998 local climbers including Jock Morse, Sam Latz, Dan Ewald, Steve Greig, Paul Cooke, Jo and Nick Isgro continued to climb, repeating many existing climbs and putting up a few new ones. Sam Latz was the most active climber getting out regularly and putting up a number of good climbs. However, it wasn’t until Mark Rewi arrived in 1998 that climbing was again pushed up a level with some bold climbs being ascended such as “Faceless Enemies” (21) and “Liquid Sky” (24). Mark returned on an almost annual basis. In-between his visits climbing in the Centre continued to be kept alive through the efforts of the small, but keen, local crowd. Not many new areas were developed, but the established areas received many visits and some quality lines were put up. Chris Hogarth and Iain Paterson also left their mark during a short period in the latter half of 1998, concentrating their efforts in putting up new climbs at the Unknown, the most serious being “Little Drum Machine Boy” (24).

In March 2000, interest was renewed when Krish Seewraj came onto the scene. Teaming up with anyone that could get out, the number of recorded climbs in the centre was increased by fifty percent in two years. Old areas were revisited and a few new areas were established with first ascents of old problems like “Oedipus Shmoedipus” (19) and the direct finish to M&M’s (16) called Mee-Gwitch (19). New climbs like “Pure Delight” (19) and “Hidden Courage” (21) are just a few of the worthwhile climbs established. The local climbing area of Stegar Road received an onslaught of visits in 2000 and 2001 including one from Mark Rewi, when he convinced some friends to help drag a generator up to the Quarry Wall and Left Wall to create the hard and sustained “On Seas of Desire” (25) and tricky “One for the Girls” (25).

Members of the local climbing community continued to fluctuate as people came and left. Some of the more significant climbers who graced the area include Justin Harrison, Jason Geres and Pat Spiers. In late 2001 Goshen Watts made another trip to the centre with Richard Lodge and finally completed his long-standing project “Non Stop Action Groove” (28), which remains the hardest climb in the centre. During this trip they also bolted and climbed the fun “Mini Cooper ‘S’” (24) and, unfortunately “Areyonga (Permit Only)” (24) which should never have been done, see Section 14.7.

From mid 2001 until the end of 2002 Mark Rewi, Pat Spiers, Jason Geres and Krish Seewraj were the main driving force of the area with ascents of classic new climbs such as “Gnome Napper” (20) and “Avoiding a Greek Wedding” (23). Unlike Mark, Pat and Krish preferred hand drilling when they put up “Come On Face!” (24) and “Spooked” (23) on Left Wall, which also gained the brilliant “Fight to be Free” (23) and possibly the hardest natural line in the centre “Git Face” (25). This completed the development of the Stegar Road area and has made it the perfect location for visiting climbers, being close to Alice Springs and sporting a wide variety of grades and climbing styles.

Climbing activity in the centre slowed down significantly at the end of 2002 when Mark, Pat and Jason left town. Karl Godden and Claire Helm came to town for six months from the end of 2002 and repeated and confirmed the grades of many of the recently established harder lines. Krish kept the climbing community going by introducing a number of locals to outdoor climbing and helping new comers find the best areas. Some of the longer term climbers included Steve Warren, Warwick Beever, Steve Thornton (who originally starting climbing in the area when the Yerba's were going strong) and Garn Cooper.

Garn, a seasoned Tasmanian climber who had previously worked in the area for short durations, arrived for a longer stay in early 2003. During the next couple of years, with the help of Dave Koskuba and various friends who came to visit, he repeated many existing routes and put up some good lines. Unafraid of long walks and keen to find new locations he established several crags around Serpentine Chalet, Serpentine Gorge, the Davenport Ranges and most significantly Boggy Hole. Of the many new climbs established some of the best are "Come Back to the Light" (17), "The Fateful Lightening" (18), "Projective Space" (17) and the gothic line of "Hammer" (17).

The Northern Territory bouldering championships were held at the YMCA climbing wall on Saturday 21st August 2004. This was the first time the competition had been held in Alice Springs and Mark Baker came to set the routes and judge the competition. Eleven people entered, with ten of them coming from Alice Springs. The only entrant from out of town was a Singaporean called Johann Annuar. He just happened to be in town for a few days on a break from his mammoth round the world cycle trip.



Judges and climbers at the 2004 Northern Territory Bouldering Competition

Section 3 - Land Management

Central Australia has the largest percentage of Indigenous people in Australia, who continue to have strong traditional cultural values. The Indigenous people (Custodians) have a legal right to be involved in the approval of activities carried out on or near Sacred Sites. A Sacred Site is a place of cultural significance to the Indigenous people. As such there are complex issues with respect to land management. Rock climbing is generally carried out on more conspicuous outcrops and these are likely to be Sacred Sites. Therefore regardless of who manages the land around the outcrop, Custodians are legally entitled to say whether climbing is allowed, see Section 4.

There are four types of Land Management situations described below. Although not an exhaustive list, these cover the majority of land in Central Australia:

Custodians

Custodians need to be consulted with all issues related to the management and use of land that has been returned to them under the Native Title Act 1993 and also to any area that is a Sacred Site, regardless of who manages the land. Custodians cannot be contacted directly and there are two organisations that look after their interests. The Central Land Council deal with issues related to the Native Title Act 1993 and Northern Territory Aboriginal Land Act 1992, whilst the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority deal with issues related to the Northern Territory Sacred Sites Protection Act 2000.

Pastoral Lease Holder

A lot of land in Central Australia is managed and used for cattle stations, the owners of which are called Pastoral Lease Holders. Generally the station owners can be contacted directly, although there is an organisation that looks after their combined interest called the Centralian Land Management who can be used as the initial point of contact.

Parks and Wildlife Commission

A significant amount of land in the East and West MacDonnell Ranges is either National Park or Conservation areas; the Parks and Wildlife Commission manage these. The head office in Alice Springs or the ranger of individual National Parks can be contacted directly in relation to what activities are allowed. Currently there is no policy on climbing but there are a few areas in National Parks where climbing is deemed acceptable or permission has in the past been granted.

Crown Land

The Land Administration Section of the Department of Lands Planning and Environment manages Crown Land. The Northern Territory Trespass Act 2000 states that unless there is a sign declaring that trespassing is not allowed on the Crown Land, public access can be gained to this land to pass over it but not necessarily to undertake specific activities, such as climbing.

Contact Phone Numbers

Central Land Council	08 8951 6211
Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority	08 8952 6366
Centralian Land Management	08 8953 4230
Parks and Wildlife Commission	08 8951 8250
Department of Lands Planning and Environment	08 8951 9240

Section 4 - Access

Local climbers will be able to advise on the latest access issues and news. The best place to get up to date contact details is probably Lone Dingo, which can be found at the south end of the Todd Mall (08 8953 3866). It is also worth being aware of two legal documents that need to be considered when approaching a crag in Central Australia, the Northern Territory Trespass Act 2000 and the Northern Territory Sacred Sites Protection Act 2000.

Northern Territory Trespass Act 2000

For any land except Crown Land, climbers should be aware that unless there is a right of access they are trespassing. This means that a civil wrong, and not a criminal offence, has been committed against the ownership of the property. Under the Northern Territory Trespass Act 2000 land managers (i.e. Custodians, Pastoral Lease Holder, Parks and Wildlife Commission or Department of Lands Planning and Environment) are within their rights to request a trespasser to leave. For some of the crags listed in this guide an agreement has been reached with the land manager, details of these agreements are provided in the introductions to each crag. Some land managers have requested a phone call to let them know of your plans while others request a written statement be provided (either by fax, post or hand delivered) to absolve them of any liability. Please abide by the wishes of these land managers and help to keep these places open.

None of the crags listed here in are on Aboriginal Land Trust areas, i.e. lands returned to Custodians under the Native Title Act 1993. However, for those of you who wish to further explore the area, it is important to remember that to gain right of access to Aboriginal Land Trust areas, a permit is required, except when driving through the land on a public road. The right of access provided by a permit would more than likely be limited to community centres and will not necessarily give you the freedom to go anywhere, and do what you want to do. Permits and information about what access they entitle you to may be gained from the Central Land Council. To gain access to a specific crag and climb, contact needs to be made with both the Central Lands Council and the Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority, see below.

Northern Territory Sacred Sites Protection Act 2000

Other states and territories have Acts similar to the Northern Territory Sacred Sites Protection Act. However, due to the higher percentage of Indigenous people it is probably more rigorously enforced here than elsewhere, and is therefore worth being aware of. The right of access for an activity like climbing, which under the Act would be classified as “works” due to the potential to change the appearance of a rock face both by leaving chalk marks and/or dislodging loose rocks, is more complex than in other parts of Australia. This does not mean that climbing will not be allowed at the specific outcrop, as it will depend on the type of Sacred Site.

The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority maintains a register of known Sacred Sites, although this is not an exhaustive list. You need to apply for a search of this register to be carried out to assess if the area in which you wish to climb is a Sacred Site. If the area you are interested in is not listed on this register it does not mean it isn't a Sacred Site, it may be that no one has ever asked about it. This initial stage of the process is straightforward and at the time of writing only costs \$20, for each area. When requesting a search it is worth asking for a search of Certificates of Compliance that have been previously granted. It is possible that a similar activity may have been previously approved therefore negating the need to undertake the second and more problematic stage.

If the area is found to be a Sacred Site and no Certificates of Compliance have previously been granted for similar activities, the type of site and what activities are allowed needs to be established. Merely visiting an old initiation ground site is an offence under the Act and could result in a fine. The Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority would establish these facts by identifying and liaising with the Custodians.

There are some crags listed for which it is known that climbing is illegal under the Northern Territory Sacred Sites Protection Act 2000, this is clearly stated in the crag introduction and the recorded climbs are only named with no descriptions of the location or route. The reason for listing these crags is to enforce that climbing on them is illegal, local climbers strongly urge visiting climbers to avoid these areas. Whilst permission from land managers may have previously been granted to climb on most of the crags listed in this guide, this does not mean that access will still be granted nor does it mean that a Certificate of Compliance has been obtained. As such, climbing on any of the crags listed in this guide may technically be illegal.

Section 5 - Camping and Accommodation

Getting to Central Australia takes time and money no matter where you are coming from. Once here the majority of climbing is relatively easy to get to, being located in the MacDonnell Ranges that stretch 200km east and west of Alice Springs. Several areas remote of Alice Springs are noted here, whilst good climbing can be found at some of these locations they are a long drive away, as such they will probably only interest the real die hard adventurers. A 2WD, along with varying amounts of walking, will be adequate to get you to most of the main areas detailed in this guide. However a 4WD will come in handy to negotiate the sandy river and creek beds if you want to get to some of the more remote crags, or if you want to find a secluded bush camp setting. Table 5.1 gives a summary of the camping and accommodation near the major climbing areas.

Bush camping in the outback is an experience that should not be missed however, care should be taken not to bush camp on Aboriginal Lands Trust, Conservation or National Park areas. Signs are generally displayed to warn where bush camping is not permitted, please abide by these notices and signs. Minimum impact camping is requested for both commercial and bush camping areas and there are also some key safety considerations that need to be remembered. The following list some of the main issues to keep in mind when camping in Central Australia:

- Keep groups small to reduce the impact on the environment.
- Where appropriate obtain permission from the land manager.
- Keep fires small and controlled; don't light fires when there is a fire warning or if there are high winds. For cooking use the free gas BBQ/rings when available otherwise take a camp stove.
- Store food where it will not attract attention from the animals around you, you may not see them but they are there.
- Take out everything you bring in, do not burn your rubbish. In arid areas toilet paper takes forever to decompose so bury excrement but take toilet paper away with you.
- Water is scarce in arid areas so take plenty with you, 4lts per person per day is the recommended minimum.



Jason Geres on the first ascent of Where's the Gardener - 18

- Do not pollute waterholes. Traditionally Indigenous people never camped near or swam in waterholes so as not to pollute them. Follow their example. While it is tempting to jump in a waterhole, stick to those places where swimming is permitted, including Ellery Big Hole and Glenn Helen Gorge in the West MacDonnell Ranges, and Trephina Gorge (when there is water) in the East MacDonnell Ranges.
- Check boots and clothes for surprises before putting them on in the morning, it is possible that a scorpion or spider has taken refuge in them.
- In the majority of areas listed, all plants, animals and natural features are protected. Take only photos and memories so others can appreciate their beauty. Leave the camping area as you found it, or as you would like to find it - undisturbed.

Section 6 - Climate and When to Climb

Central Australia is a place of extremes. Winter nights dropping well below zero, while summer days soar into the forties, see Table 6.1. The best time of year to climb is between April and October when nights can get very cold but days are usually warm and sunny. It is however, possible to climb year round, as long as you pick your times and places sensibly see Table 6.3. Summer months, November through to March, get uncomfortably hot even in the shade and you should take extra precautions when climbing in these periods. Additional water, sun cream and a wide brimmed hat are essential while sunglasses are highly recommended. Generally winters are usually dry and most rains fall in mid to late summer however, rainfall cannot easily be predicted, see Table 6.2.

Section 7 - Flora & Fauna

Central Australia is thought to be a vast desert by many but, in reality, there are 34 land systems in the area providing habitat for a huge variety of flora and fauna. The climbing areas are generally found in the “Desert Range and Foothill” land systems, these host a surprising diversity of plants and animals. Although rain is unpredictable and the evaporation rate is approximately three and a half meters per year, when rain does fall it seeps into the many sandy creek and river beds eventually being channelled into gaps and gorges that cut through the ranges. This underground water and the protection offered by foothills provide an ecological haven. Geologically speaking, most of the plants and animals are recent invaders of the area but have now adapted to the specific environment making them unique.

The vegetation varies considerably and the upper and ground storey systems are home for hundreds of plants. This diversity has recently come under threat from introduced weeds including Buffle grass, Ruby dock and Mexican poppy. These introduced plants seem to thrive in the environment and are suffocating native plants by taking water from the ground and light from above. The Buffle grass especially creates more intense bush fires that kill off previously fire resistant native plants and trees therefore, rapidly changing the landscape. It is worth being able to identify some of these introduced species and take measures to ensure that you don't help to spread them by carrying their seeds on clothes or soles of shoes. A good place to find more information is the local Threatened Species Network on Hartley Street (08 8952 1541) or Greening Australia on Leichhardt Terrace (08 8953 2882).

Climbing Area	Commercial Campsite	Bush Camping Area	Accommodation
Alice Springs	Stegar Road	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	Ilparpa Road	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	Honeymoon Gap	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	Mt Gillen	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	Charles Creek	Not applicable	Alice Springs
West McDonnell Ranges	Simpson Gap Crag	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	Ellery Creek	None close by	Glenn Helen Homestead
	Serpentine Gorge/Chalet	Serpentine Chalet	Glenn Helen Homestead
	Ormiston Gorge	Two Mile river bed just past Glenn Helen Homestead	Glenn Helen Homestead
	Glenn Helen		Glenn Helen Homestead
East McDonnell Ranges	Emily Hills	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	Jessie Hills	Not applicable	Alice Springs
	The Unknown	See crag introduction	Alice Springs
	Benstead Creek	See crag introduction	Ross River Homestead *
	Trephina Gorge	See crag introduction	Ross River Homestead *
Other	Ross River	See crag introduction	Ross River Homestead *
	Boggy Hole	None close by	None Close By
	Running Waters	See crag introduction	None Close By
	Kings Canyon	None close by	Kings Canyon Resort
	Mt Conner	See crag introduction	Yulara Tourist Village
	Davenport Ranges	See crag introduction	None Close By

Table 5.1 - Campsites and Accommodation

* : Due to reopen in early 2005

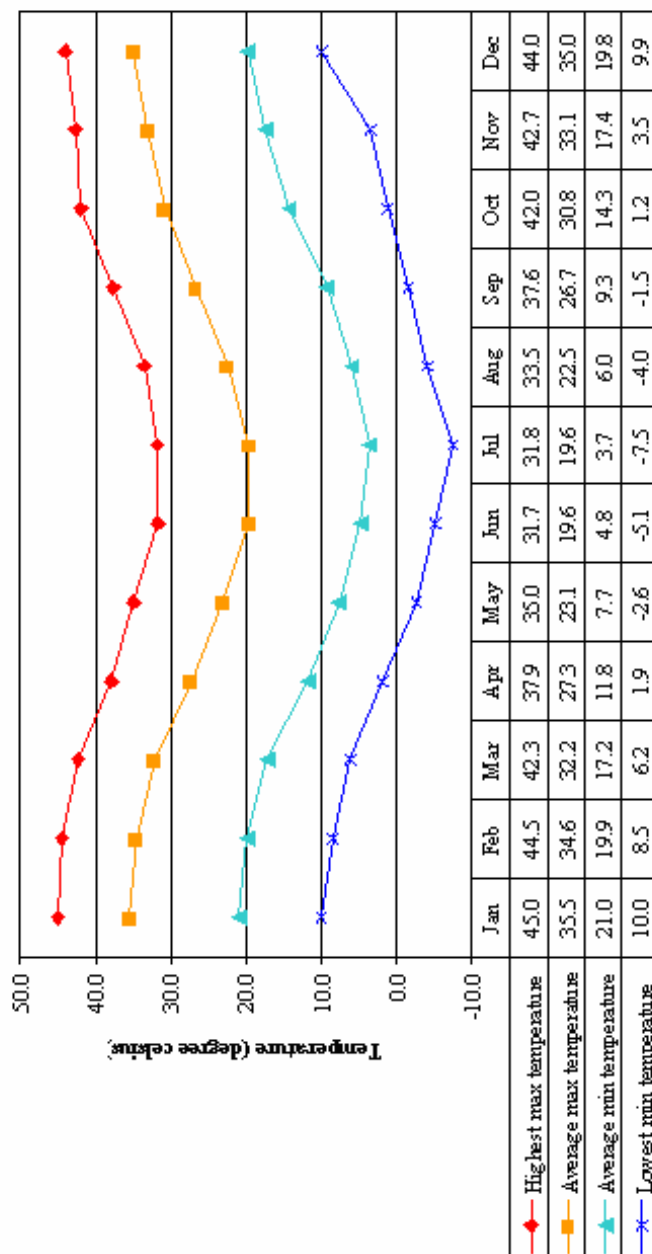


Table 6.1 - Temperature Ranges in Central Australia

Rainfall mm	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average number of days	3.4	3.3	2.8	1.7	2.1	2.0	1.6	1.4	1.5	3.1	3.8	4.0
Mean total monthly	42.7	41.4	33.1	16.4	16.1	14.6	13.6	10.4	9.4	20.1	25.1	36.3
Highest total monthly	313.5	235.8	362.9	117.1	108.7	81.8	244.8	158.0	89.7	115.5	138.8	288.2
Lowest total monthly	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Table 6.2 - Rainfall Ranges in Central Australia

Climbing Area	Cliff Direction	Winter	Summer
Stegar Road	North West facing	All day, cold early mornings	Early morning
Ilparpa Road	Mostly north facing	All day, cold early mornings	Early morning
Honeymoon Gap	West facing	All day, cold early mornings	Morning
Mt Gillen	North Facing	All day	Not recommended, sun all day
Charles Creek	West facing	Afternoons and evenings	Morning
Simpson Gap Crags	South facing	Can be cold all day	Not recommended, sun all day
Ellery Creek	North Facing	All day	Not recommended, sun all day
Serpentine Gorge/Chalet	East and west facing	All day	Morning
Ormiston Gorge	West facing	All day, cold early mornings	Morning
Glenn Helen	All direction	All day	Limited early morning
Emily Hills	South facing	All day, cold early mornings	Early morning
Jessie Hills	South facing	All day, cold early mornings	Early morning
The Unknown	East facing	All day	Not recommended, sun all day
Benstead Creek	North facing	All day	Not recommended, sun all day
Trephina Gorge	All directions	All day	Morning
Ross River	All directions	All day	Morning
Boggy Hole	South East facing	All day	Mid/late afternoon
Running Waters	North facing	All day	Not recommended, sun all day
Kings Canyon	South west facing	All day, cold early mornings	Morning
Mt Conner	North facing	All day	Not recommended, sun all day
Davenport Ranges	All directions	All day	Early morning

Table 6.3 - When to Climb

Section 7 - Flora & Fauna (Cont'd)

Bird life is prolific. Early mornings and dusk are a great time to see a large variety, ranging from Wedge Tailed Eagles to Variegated Fairy Wrens. Birds use the rock faces for places to perch while watching for unsuspecting prey, or to build a nest safe from predators. Larger birds leave a distinctive guano streak on the ledges they use. Although not obvious whether it is a perch or nest, it is wise to stay clear of them especially during springtime when young are present. Raptors will be quick to take offensive action on anyone foolish enough to get too close. When climbing cracks, be careful not to disturb nests and be prepared to come across the occasional bat, a high-pitched squeaking is a sure sign and remember they were there first.

The main mammals you are likely to see are wallabies, kangaroos and euros. In the early morning they will be grazing and a little sleepy. There are however, many more mammals lurking around, most of which are nocturnal and are good at hiding from humans. Reptiles are more likely to be seen as they become more active as the day gets warmer. The many species of lizards and snakes come in lots of sizes and colours and are wonderful to see. They like to hide in crevices and under rocks when resting, so be wary of tails hanging out of cracks. During the warmer days and particularly during summer they venture out to bask in the sun. Whilst it is true to say there are many poisonous snakes, they generally only attack as a last resort preferring escape to conflict. Make noise when you walk and they will usually move away from you.

Climbing is a minority sport, many of the areas listed here are infrequently visited and the environment you are experiencing is relatively untouched. The trampling of many feet has an impact of carving corridors through the vegetation. Plants that happen to fall under foot are unlikely to survive once damaged due to the hostile environment. It is easy to undo what has taken many of hundreds of years to build up. It is important the environment is respected and care is taken to protect all plants and animals. Remember in the majority of areas listed in this guide, they are protected. For further reading get a copy of A Field Guide to Central Australia, written by Penny van Oosterzee and published by JB Books Australia.

Section 8 - Geology

The 300m high ridges of the MacDonnell Ranges spread 200km east and west of Alice Springs forming the backbone of Central Australia. For most visitors, it is an unexpected landscape and one that gives a feeling of being in an ancient and timeless land. This feeling is translated into physical evidence as hundreds of millions of years of rock formations have been exposed, by past violent upheavals that rotated the once horizontally layered rock into vertical formations. The area comprises rock that was created when the entire area was an inland sea called the Amadeus Basin. Some three hundred million years ago, huge earth movements tilted and folded the previously horizontal formations. Since then wind and water have eroded the landscape into its present form.

The majority of exposed rock in the MacDonnell Ranges is Heavytree Quartzite. This rock is harder than granite and the other rock found in the area and therefore, most of the climbing is on quartzite. Heavytree Quartzite varies in colour depending on the amount of iron oxide staining. Recently exposed sections of rock being a pale creamy colour and older sections are a deeper red. Along watercourses, the lower portion of faces become very shiny and polished, making climbs on these faces hard to start. The continual baking from the sun can make the rock brittle so climbing is quite exciting at times.



Sam Latz on the first ascent of Mortal Thoughts - 20

Near town, the only climbing areas not on Heavytree Quartzite are Charles Creek and Wallaby Crag. The rock at both of these areas has a weak granite texture making the climbing quite different.

Head west from Alice Springs and there are occasional outcrops of multicoloured siltstone, sandstone and shale. Whilst beautiful to look at, they are soft deposits and offer no climbing opportunities. Occasional small limestone ridges can be seen along the roadside, lacking in height with sharp edges to cut your fingers, shoes and ropes, they are generally uninviting. Glenn Helen has remnants of Pacoota Sandstone, a soft deposit that was eroded away to form the water hole. There are two rock types that form the sides of Glenn Helen gorge, Heavytree Quartzite and a conglomerate, the latter gives the perception of looseness hence most of the climbing is on the more solid looking walls on the south facing crags.

East of Alice Springs there are a few limestone cliffs with good climbing. One at Ross River called Sphinx Rock, which has a number of routes on sharp rock and Benstead Creek, which provides great climbing, and has potential for many new sport routes.

South west of Alice Springs (approximately 350km) on the Lasseter Highway, Mt Conner stands proud above the flat plains, a sandstone plateau that has withstood erosion. This formation is highly variable in structure and strength and this is reflected in the quality of the climbing. Boggy Hole and Running Waters are about half way between Alice Springs and Mt Conner, as the crow flies. Most of the outcrops round here are Mereenie sandstone, a fairly strong rock often found with a hardened dark coloured outer skin. Kings Canyon is further away (approximately 480km) and the rock here comprises both Mereenie and Carmichael sandstone. The former is a stronger deposit, varying from white to light brown in colour, and lies on top of the softer formation that varies from rubbly red to light brown. Being sandstone some degree of brittleness and variability in strength should be expected. For further reading get a copy of A Field Guide to Central Australia, written by Penny van Oosterzee and published by JB Books Australia.

Section 9 - Protection & Grading

A full and varied rack is recommended. There is a need for RPs through to house brick hexes, cams and stoppers (if you are old enough to remember them). Different crags need different gear and as nearly all the climbs are single pitch, it is generally easy to decide what to take up. Due to the rock at the top of crags being more prone to weathering and therefore more broken, it is worth noting that setting up belays can at times be problematic, long slings are useful to cope with the distance between anchors.

Care is needed when using new carabineers with bolt plates in this area. The slim shaft of new carabineers allows enough room for the bolt plate to be knocked off the bolt head. This is probably due to a smaller than usual bolt head diameter having been used. For all areas where bolt plates are needed five will suffice, except at Running Waters where ten are probably needed.

Grading has and always will be a contentious issue, subject to personal preference, skills and stature. To further complicate the tyranny of numbers many of the climbs have had few if not a single ascent and therefore, the grades given should be treated cautiously. The Australian grading system lumps all the contributing factors into one simple number. This may seem sensible to start with but does create its own confusions. That said, no grading system will ever truly work and it is best to read

the description carefully, look at the climb and make your own judgement. Being a tourist town many overseas travellers pass through and therefore a grade comparison table has been included.

Australian	US YDS	UK	France	UIAA
13	5.6	4a		V
14	5.7	4b		V
15	5.8	4b		V+
16	5.8	4c		V+
17	5.9	4c	6a	VI-
18	5.9	5a	6a+	VI-
19	5.10a	5a	6b	VI
20	5.10b	5b	6b+	VI
21	5.10c/d	5b	6c	VI
22	5.11a	5c	6c+	VII
23	5.11b	6a	7a	VII
24	5.11c	6a	7a+	VIII-
25	5.11d	6b	7b	VIII
26	5.12b	6b	7b+	VIII+
27	5.12d	6c	7c	IX-
28	5.13a	7a	7c+	IX
29	5.13b	7b	8a	IX+

Table 9.1 - Grading Comparison Table

Section 10 - Ethics

Minimal impact and traditional climbing is usually practised by local climbers. There are however a few bolted areas, most of which were developed in the early nineties. Bolting in National Parks is illegal and due to the disfiguring nature of the practice, bolting both in and out of these areas could fall foul of the Northern Territory Sacred Sites Protection Act 2000, see Section 4. There are plenty of traditional routes where it is possible to take away everything you bring with you and this is preferred.

Section 11 - Format

This guide has been broken into four main climbing areas, around Alice Springs, West and East MacDonnell Ranges and remote crags. Each crag has a short description with more concise information on how to get there and any peculiarities such as access arrangements, camping, etc. An effort has been made to ensure there is some sense of continuity in the way routes are described. However, due to the diverse range of sources there is still some variation in the amount of detail

provided. The use of abbreviations has been limited as much as possible but there are a few that were deemed appropriate: FH - fixed hanger; PR - peg/piton runner; BR - bolt runner (plates required, use with care see Section 9); FHB - fixed hanger belay; DBB/SBB - double/single bolt belay (plates required, use with care see Section 9) and (alt) - alternate lead.

For some of the climbs in this guide there may have been previous unsuccessful attempts or the route may have first been a top rope problem. Unless there is an interesting story that can be put in the climb description there is no list of the climbers or various assaults on each climb and the people listed are those that recorded the first free ascent. It will be noted that there are no stars awarded to climbs in this guide. As with grading, stars are misleading and subject to much bias, therefore if a climb is worthwhile, this will be indicated in the description.

Section 12 - First Aid

This section is not meant to be a definitive guide to remote first aid, it is expected that climbers will have a basic first aid kit and knowledge about how to use it. The aim of this section is to identify some aspects of first aid that are more likely to be applicable to Central Australia than other places. The two main areas to be detailed here are heat exhaustion and heat stroke and bites and stings.

Many people come here unaware of how serious a threat heat exhaustion and heat stroke is. They are by far the greatest danger that you are likely to encounter, but can be easily avoided by drinking plenty of water and staying in the shade without exercising during the hottest part of the day. Heat exhaustion comes about when a person loses fluid through sweating, resulting in mild shock and is best treated with rest in a cool place and if conscious, regular but small drinks of cool water. If they are unconscious then they are in serious danger and medical care is urgently required. Heat stroke occurs when body fluid levels get so low that the heat generated can not be dissipated through sweating. Soon after this stage vital organs are likely to be adversely affected. Follow the same first aid as for heat exhaustion, seeking urgent medical care as soon as possible.

There are many reptiles and insects in this region that can inject enough venom to debilitate and even kill a person. The most effective method of managing many bites and stings is the pressure immobilisation technique, to prevent the spreading of the venom that has been injected until medical care can be reached. To apply pressure use a crepe bandage, starting at the site of the bite and for limbs wrap the bandage firmly (but not so tight as to cut off circulation) moving upwards covering as much of the limb as possible, then immobilise the limb with a splint. Ideally the person should not attempt to walk or move, assistance should be brought to the person unless this will cause a delay of more than two hours. However, this method should not be used for bites or stings from red back or white tailed spiders, scorpions, bulldog ants and/or centipedes. First aid for red back spider bites should be an ice pack, for white tailed spiders a cold compress and for the others listed an ice pack or cold compress. In all cases it is best to minimise movement although when in a remote location there may be no option but to move the person to where medical support can be gained.

Central Australia is a remote setting and as such care should be taken to ensure that the need for first aid is avoided. In addition to carrying plenty of water, food and sun cream and wearing a hat and sunglasses, make sure someone has been informed of where you are going and when you are expecting to return. Mobile phone reception is very poor in the area so it is advisable to carry an E.P.I.R.B. when heading to remote areas. While not cheap to buy they can be hired out locally from Lone Dingo, which can be found at the south end of the Todd Mall (08 8953 3866).

Section 13 - Around Alice Springs

Section 13.1 - Stegar Road Crag

Head south from Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway taking the first left after driving through Heavitree Gap, follow this road across the causeway to a roundabout where a left turn takes you onto Ragonesi Rd. At the end of Ragonesi Road turn left at the T-junction onto Stegar Rd. This line of small Heavitree Quartzite cliffs stretches for about 1.5km along the right side of Stegar Rd and are on Crown Land.

The rock quality varies from great to dubious and as such, care should be taken. The crags at the left and right end of the range tend to be steep, while those in the middle are more broken. Holds are abundant with excellent square cut (or sloping) holds and reasonable protection opportunities.

The approaches get steeper and longer the further east you go but they never exceed a short, sharp ten minutes. Early morning is a great time to climb here especially in the summer when there is shade available till 11:00am, depending on the month. The views at dawn are spectacular and make the early start more than worthwhile. The crags and routes are described from left to right, starting from the gate into the quarry. From this gate the sheer, blank looking wall called "The Quarry Wall" can be clearly identified; the first two walls are located to the left of this.

Sports Crag of the Century

This crag, located approximately 175m to the left of The Quarry Wall is an unbelievable find with a storming line of unprecedented proportions. Previously unknown, this area astounded those who stumbled across it on a lazy morning outing and yielded amongst others the ultra impressive On-Sight 29?

***^{1/4} On-Sight 29? 6m ??

This climb is stunning, a very awkward and difficult recessed chimney. Simply (!) climb the left trending chimney with a thought-provoking move right at the top. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 23/07/02

Crack Boys Go Mining 6m 17

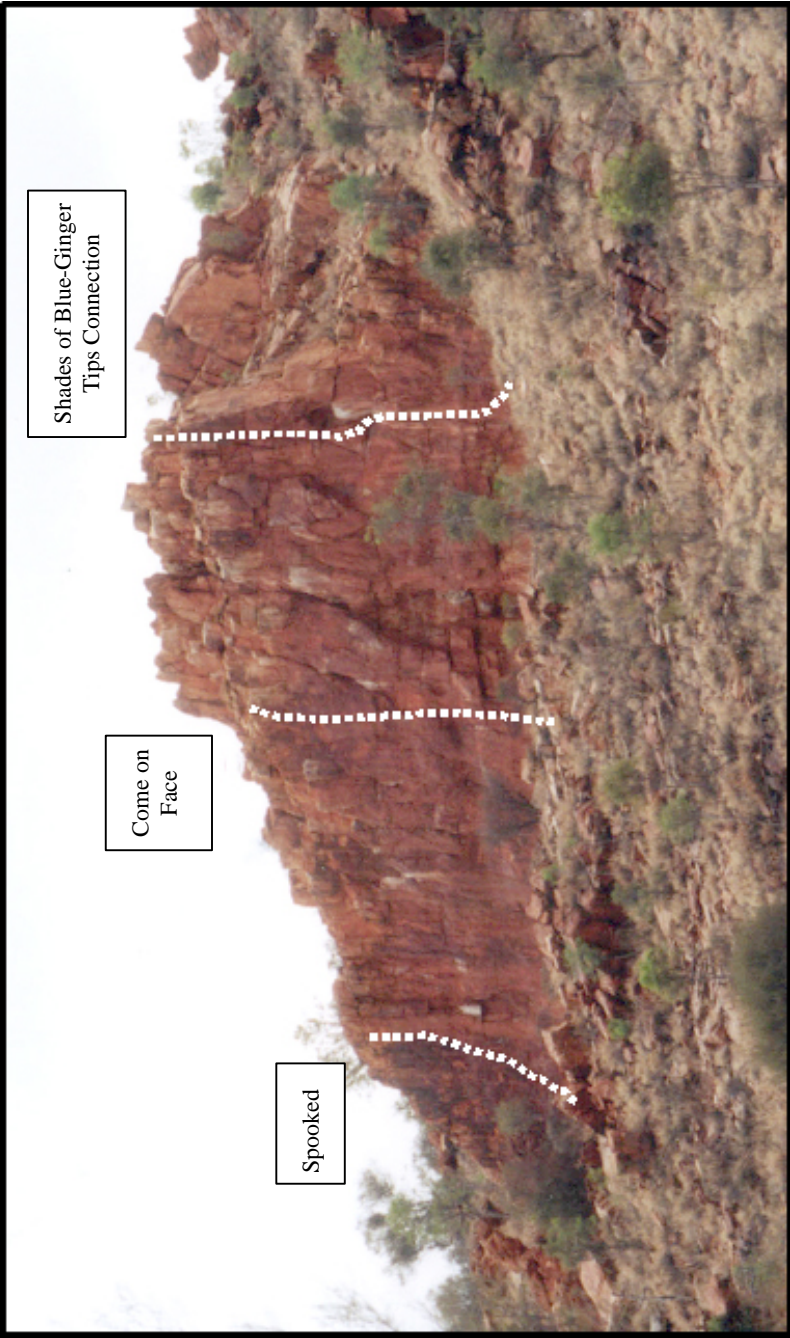
Approximately 10m or so to the right of OS29 is a prominent dark coloured pillar, climb the crack using the arête on the right side of the pillar. Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 23/07/02

Lat-Man Variant 6m 20

A contrived finish to CBGM. Climb the crack and arête as for CBGM until a step left allows an airy move up to the ledge 1m below the top, continue easily. Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 23/07/02

Left Wall

To the left of The Quarry Wall is a similar sized but harder looking cliff with overhanging starts devoid of holds. Most of the climbs have hard starts, with the climbing thereafter being a few grades easier. However this wall probably still has the highest concentration of harder lines in the centre with traditional, mixed and sport routes. One for the Girls is a good climb to use to orientate yourself when you first visit this crag. Descend either to the east or west.



Stegar Road Crags - Left Wall

Spooked 10m 23

Great fun! Steep, sustained and probably hard at the grade, this mixed climb takes a rising rightward line up the left end of the crag. Fingery moves before managing to clip the first FH, up and right to the second FH, then straight up. Krish Seewraj, Pat Spiers 18/09/02

Git Face 12m 25

A wild naturally protected line, it takes the most prominent crack line immediately left of OFTG, but to get to the crack, which starts at 4/5m, there is some hard technical climbing to be done. Krish Seewraj, Pat Spiers 11/09/02

One for the Girls 12m 25

Originally intended as a batman clip, going at 22, the start proved doable and worthwhile. Find the line of four chunky FHs in the middle of the wall, a stick clip is advisable before taking on the thin bouldery start. From the ledge above the climbing is easier but still great fun with some scary moments. FHB. Mark Rewi 07/01

The Fight to be Free 12m 23

One of the best! A naturally protected route in middle of a steep wall between OFTG & COF. This route was to be bolted and drilling had commenced a week or so prior to the first natural ascent hence its name. Start 2m right of OFTG, bold moves up the lower wall lead to a ledge and protection then climb the ragged crack until there is the option of a direct line and a right trending line, the latter being the original route with the direct and much harder finish still waiting to be done. FHB. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 13/05/01

Come On Face! 13m 24

Excellent and sustained another mixed route taking a very direct line up the highest part of the crag. Starting 3m right of TFTBF below a small dish and a FH, balance up and clip the FH and make a tricky move to good holds up high and continue direct past a second FH finishing up a small vertical crack. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 15/09/02

The Mr T Variant 14m 24

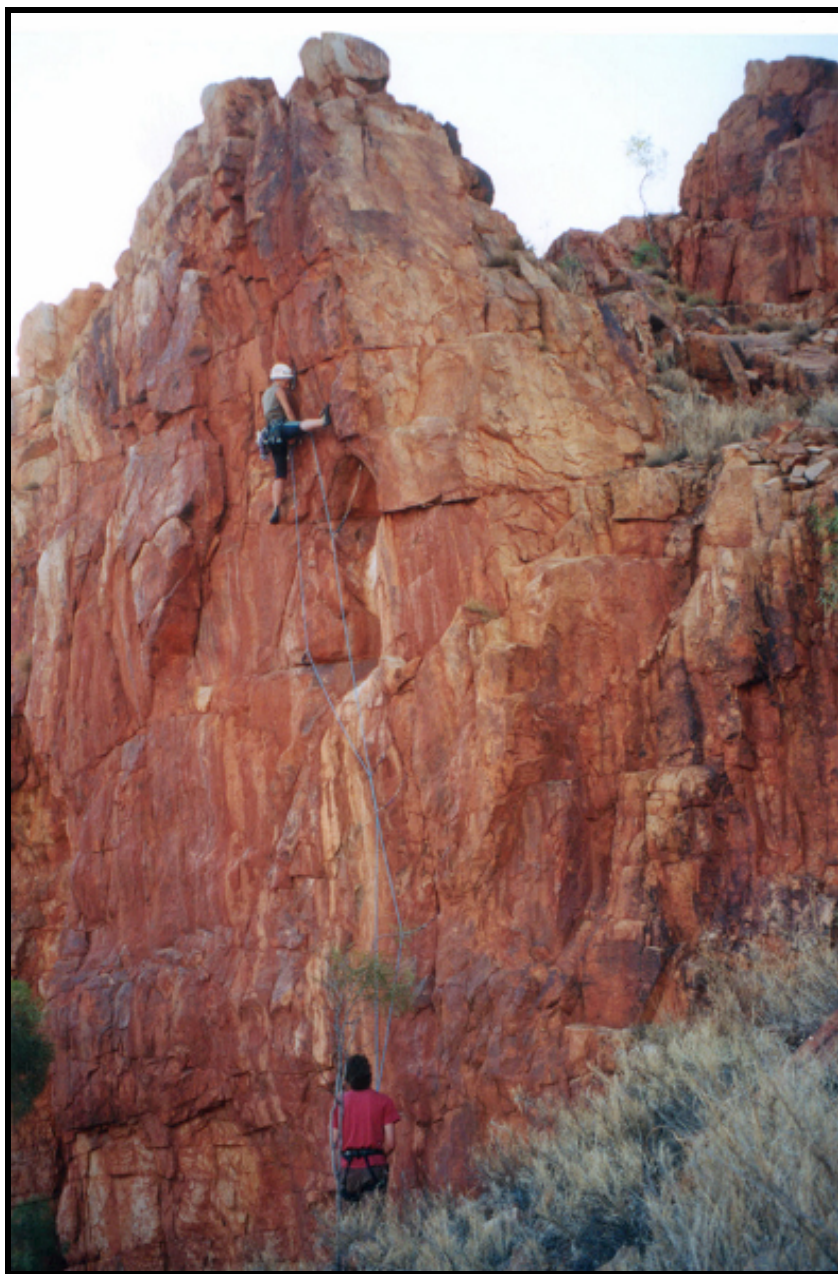
A more traditional finish to COF that is slightly longer and just as much fun. From just below the second FH on COF step right and follow the ragged slightly rightward trending crack. Pat Spiers, Jason Geres 18/09/02

Shades of Blue 12m 19

Just enough protection starting 1m right of golden guano streak below twin caves at the right hand end of the cliff. Up the committing face past small wires to the ledge and cave, BR - awkward to clip and better natural gear is a little higher. Up right from the ledge around the arête then climb the slab passing a BR. SBB, back it up! Mark Rewi, Sam Latz 27/03/98 (bolts previously placed by unknown party)

Shades of Blue-Ginger Tips Connection 12m 20

A brilliant mixture of technical and strenuous climbing, follow SOB to the cave and then continue up the sustained crack system above, which is more solid than it looks. At the top finish up the awkward crack, or sneak slightly left for an easier finish. SBB, back it up! Mark Rewi 30/04/98



Claire Helm belayed by Karl Godden on Shades of Blue-Ginger Tips Connection - 20

Morning Sky 10m 12

Not worth the effort unless you've pumped out on everything else. Starting 3m along the right hand wall of the arête below an easy gully with blocky ledges. Up past ledges and finish up the slab of SOB. SBB, back it up! Mark Rewi, Anna Snerdon, Sam Latz 27/03/98

The Quarry Wall

It's not a quarry but is accessed from a road to one; this beautiful red/orange cliff has some of the best quality rock in the centre. There are a few large boulders near the roadside, which are good fun, and probably not a bad way to warm up as there are not that many straightforward climbs on this crag or Left Wall. The climbs are fairly easy to identify, if at a loss find the three sport routes in the middle of the wall and work from there. It should be noted that "Lord of the D-Shackles", "Superstring", "First Temptation" and "Left Foot Screaming" were bolted several years before the first recorded ascents and earlier unrecorded ascents are likely, see Section 2. Descend either to the east or west.

Scrap Metal 10m 15

Don't bother, it is not worth it, the left most climb on the crag. Up past ledges and one poor excuse for a bolt. Kieran Culhane 08/08/95

Lord of the D-Shackles 12m 21

A great climb that tests the nerve, it used to have four ridiculous and unnecessary D shackles as bolts that have since been chopped. Start 5m right of SM on the steep straight crack behind a tree. Up 2m to a ledge and then up steeply past technical jamming, unexpected holds can be found when the going gets really tough. Yes it really is 21 and no more clues than that. SBB, back it up! Kieran Culhane 13/08/95

Bad Trip out of Alice 14m 22

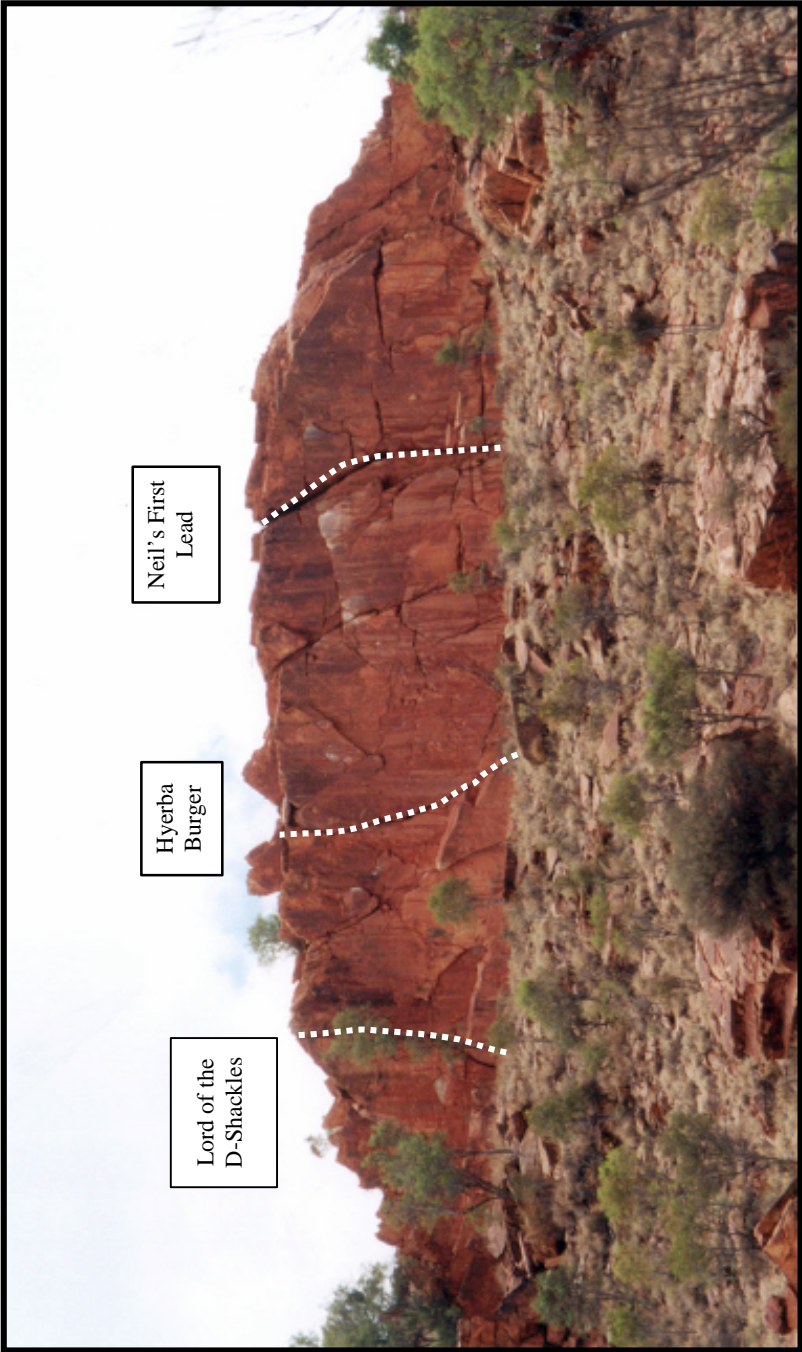
An enjoyable but harder start to LOTDS. Start at large flake 3m right of LOTDS, climb easily up flake to a jug then tenuous moves left join LOTDS just as the difficulties begin. Finish as for LOTDS. Mark Rewi 04/04/98

Crazy Sexy Cool 14m 23

Nice line crossing WTFIA at mid height but unprotected, therefore a pre-placed long sling was used to protect the crux on the first (and probably only) ascent. Start as for BTOOA, up 1.5m to where the flake heads left, go right and up along a thin line using a couple of well spaced cavities to reach WTFIA at the ledge. From here, go straight up over the bulge above and short wall to DBB. Mark Rewi 09/98

Who the Fuck is Alice 13m 20

Although this climb is easy to protect, it was the scene of a ground fall and dislocated elbow a week after its first ascent, so use the protection that is there. Start 10m right of LOTDS at the overhanging left trending crack, layback up this to the awkward mantle onto the ledge above, then continue on much easier ground up a second left trending crack to DBB. Kieran Culhane, Jo Isgro, Nick Isgro 13/08/95



Stegar Road Crag - Quarry Wall

Who the Fuck is Alice (Variant) 13m 16

A bit pointless but it was done so: start as for HB but follow the ramp left to join WTFIA at ledge above the crux, finish as for WTFIA. Kieran Culhane, Jo Isgro, Nick Isgro 13/8/95

Hyerba Burger 14m 18

Without doubt this climb has seen the most ascents in all the climbs in Central Australia. It is the customary way to warm up on this crag and is a brilliant climb in it's own right. Start 5m right of WTFIA, scramble up the ramp to the prominent vertical crack. Straight up this anyway you like using either jams, smears, edging, layways, etc. FHB. Kieran Culhane, Jo Isgro, Nick Isgro 13/08/95

On Seas of Desire 12m 25

Unlikely, hard and sustained. Using the crack of HB reach out right to clip the FH then step right to gain the jug (!) and continue straight up past two more FHs, finishing right at the top to a FHB. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 07/01

Super Desire 15m 24

A good link route with more sustained climbing than S. Follow S until the undercling is reached just past the second FH, then cross left to clip the last FH on OSOD and finish as for that climb. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 07/02

Superstring 15m 24

A fun climb starting 2m right of HB, with a hard technical crux. Clip the BR and then move up past two FHs to a sort of rest at the undercling, then up and right along diagonal rooflet to reach the last FH before exiting direct to a DBB (the placement of which is more suited for top roping than belaying). Goshen Watts 30/03/96

First Temptation 15m 22

Wonderfully sustained, starting 3m right of S. Clip the BR and start using the crack on the left, continue direct past three FHs trying to avoid the temptation of a large ledge on the right. An alternative and equally good direct start up the crack directly below the first FH can be done making it 23. DBB (the placement of which is more suited for top roping than belaying). Kieran Culhane 28/04/95

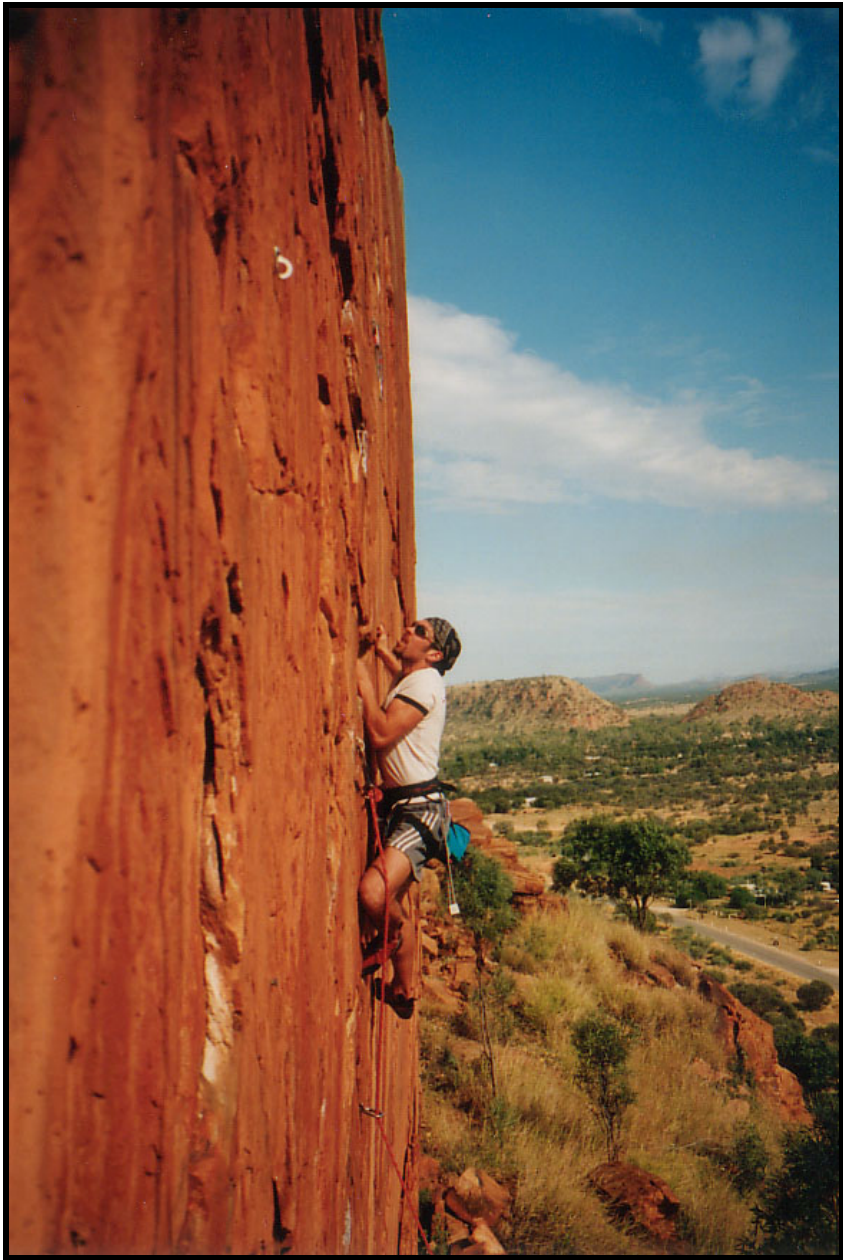
Left Foot Screaming 15m 21

Originally graded 19 and still a test of the mind! Up the left trending crack just right of FT, past one BR and then smear or layback madly through hard crux sequence. From the ledge continue more easily depending on how much strength you have left to a DBB (the placement of which is more suited for top roping than belaying). Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane 19/08/95

Neil's First Lead 15m 14

A nice little climb that goes up the large off-width 5m right of LFS, up the off-width until a step left can be made above the small rooflet, then easily up the ramp to DBB. Neil Melan 1996

The next climb is on an outcrop half way between The Quarry Wall and Horseyard Crag, behind a tree there is a prominent overhanging right facing corner.



Mark Rewi on First Temptation - 22

Eat Your Greens 6m 14

Just behind the large mulga tree climb the crack in the left face of the overhanging corner, solid rock with good jamming and bridging moves. Steve Greig, Krish Seewraj 20/03/01

These two climbs are on a small buttress immediately left of Flaky Wall, the first is on the front face and the second is on the west-facing wall in the gully immediately on the right.

Unfinished Business 9m 15

Start 1m left of the right end of the face. Follow the right trending crack to a shelf, then up the shallow corner. Steve Greig, Krish Seewraj 23/01/01

Carpe Petra 7m 18

Up the prominent crack on the west-facing wall with a small triangular pocket at 2m, slightly overhanging, strong and sustained moves at the start. Steve Greig, Sam Latz, 18/03/01

Flaky Wall

The crag is located 25m uphill from the left end of Horseyard Crag, with its base being the same height as the top of Horseyard Crag. The small smooth looking face with two prominent right trending lines, the small and tempting left facing corner in the upper left-hand section of the wall is precariously perched, tackle it at your peril.

Head(less) Hangover 9m 17

A sustained and worthwhile route that begins 1m from the left end of the wall, holds and protection at the start will concern most but do improve significantly with height. Climb up the flaky wall and traverse right at a narrow shelf to gain parallel twin right slanting cracks. After reaching the ledge above climb the right facing corner. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 26/01/01

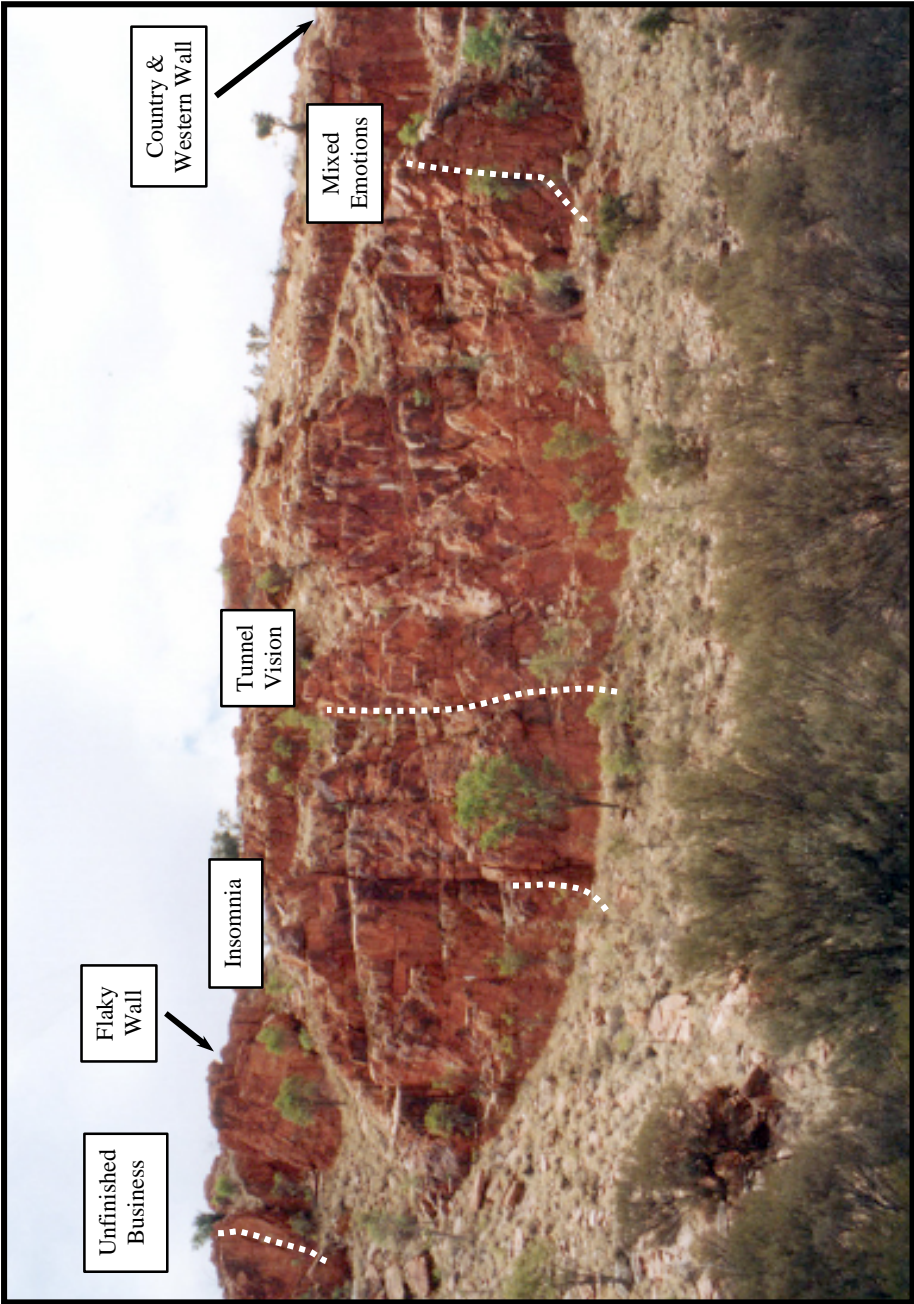
A better but less protected start can be made 2m from the left edge of the crag, giving a more direct line. Krish Seewraj 04/02/01

Ride of the Valkyries 8m 16

Another short but fun line, following the right trending crack that starts at the large flakes resting against the crag. Start up the flakes and step left into the crack system, good rock and small gear placements. Steve Greig, Marc De Bell 17/01/01

Wedge Tailed Direct 8m 17

A direct start to ROTV that avoids using the large flakes to start, climb the right trending crack line from the ground. Krish Seewraj, Steve Greig 23/01/01



Stegar Road Crags - Horseyard Crag

Horseyard Crag

This crag is approximately 150m right of the Quarry Wall and is directly opposite the horse yard of Glenrowan horse stables. It is a broken looking cliff with large ledges but hides some fun natural lines. The climbs are generally not sustained but do offer a good range of lower grade routes. Be careful of loose rock on this crag, there are a number of large flakes that are sitting on small ledges just waiting for a push to help them down, climbs in the vicinity of these flakes have the appropriate warning in their description. Tunnel Vision is easy to identify and can be used to orientate yourself when you make your first visit to the crag. The best descent is to head east to where the crag peters out, a westward's descent can be made but involves some scrambling.

Nowhere Left to Turn 12m 14

The first major right facing corner from the left hand end of the crag, climb easily to the flake at the base of the corner then the fun starts. Mantle onto the flake and continue up the corner to a thin and awkward finish. Mark Rewi, Greg Cox 30/07/00

Any Takers 17m 18

Starting 3m right of NLTT. Bold moves over the bulge immediately below the left edge of the flake block from the ledge easier but more exposed moves via the shallow scoop on the blunt arête. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 07/10/00

Tangent Line 22m 18/12

A contrived line with same hard start as AT but easing considerably thereafter, from the ledge continue in a rising rightward traverse via this and the second flake block above. Finish direct. Justin Harrison, Krish Seewraj 07/10/00

Double Scoop Flake 22m 14

Starting 3m right of AT below a scoop just right of the flake block, thin moves lead to delightful climbing! Up to and through the scoop, exiting left. Climb the crack at back of second scoop and continue on the leftward rising crack, finish direct. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 07/10/00

Insomnia 20m 15

The first climb of the crag and probably one of the best, start at a flake at the bottom of prominent vertical crack line 12m right of NLTT. Proceed up the stepped crack until the off-width, move up carefully past the large hanging flake. The hanging flake has been the scene of much concern and may well come down one day, so be careful. Mark Rewi, Sam Latz 20/03/98

Invertebrate Moron 20m 17

The crack line with an overhanging start immediately right of I. Some hard moves to gain the first ledge, then more easily straight up the blunt rib. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 16/08/00

Control Freak 20m 20

The next and much thinner crack to the right of IM. A bold first 8m on small and sparse protection with a potential ground fall. Continue on considerably easier ground with big holds and better gear. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 23/08/00

Dreamtime 25m 22

Great moves through the roof and up to the ledge but thereafter the pace relaxes to a stroll. In-between CF and G&G is a prominent in-cut roof. Straight through the middle of this via airy moves/stances with hard to place protection, from the ledge continue at a more relaxed pace up the rib. Krish Seewraj 03/09/00

Glitter and Gold 22 m 22

A one-move wonder ascended in four different styles on the day and is worth going for. Just left of TV is an overhang with a right facing corner below it, up the corner and past the roof and face above. From there go wherever you want. Mark Rewi, Paul Cooke, Sam Latz, Krish Seewraj 30/07/00

Tunnel Vision 18m 10

A left facing crack and corner system in the middle of the crag and 2m right of G&G. A good beginners lead with heaps of protection and some fun airy moves. It is possible to break right onto the main wall half way up which also provides a nice line. Mark Rewi, Steve Grieg 23/07/00

Python 22m 17

Start at short overhung wall 2m right of TV, scramble up to the ledge below the wall and go direct, the crux is getting over the wall but the interest is sustained due to good moves and unfortunately poor rock in the upper sections. Dan Ewald, Jock Morse 09/07/00

Crazy Hazy Summers Day 22m 14

Great fun. Start as for P but at the ledge head right to the wide ragged crack, climb through the crack and continue on the left side of the white slab. From here either continue straight up or as originally climbed make an airy step right to better holds before moving up, if you do it the original way beware of a large very loose flake on the right just above the white slab. Finish up the wide corner crack above with a tricky move to top out. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 29/09/00

Head(less) Test 22m 18

Between CHSD & BL is an improbable looking rib with several overlaps - a direct and determined approach is needed. Boulder up the initial wall past a small roof at 2.5m to reach a ledge, weave up through overlaps and easier ground above. Beware of the same very loose large flake that is mentioned in CHSD approx 4m below the top of the crag. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 15/11/00

Butterfly Lost 25m 14

The next prominent crack system to the right of HT, it has a fun looking flake at about 5m. There isn't much protection until you reach the flake, from there an enjoyable direct line takes you up. Dan Ewald, Lies Pajmans 13/07/00

Direct Abuse 27m 17

A contrived line that can be escaped before the crux. Start 3m right of BL, climb the flaky looking wall to the rightward trending crack, follow this until you can break up and left to the ledge. Continue up through a clean crack at the left hand end of the above small wall, continue up the left facing corner. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison, Mark Rewi, 09/08/00



Justin Harrison on Butterfly Lost - 14

Unnamed 25m 17

A better more direct climb than DA. Climb the blank looking wall 3m right of DA starting below and passing through a prominent dish at 6m, trend right to gain and climb the easy left sloping ramp. From here delightful sustained climbing to the top of the crag via the right trending pea-pod shaped crack and corner system. Mark Rewi, Justin Harrison 23/08/00

Life's Worth Cancer 20m 13

A great beginners climb with heaps of good gear from start to finish. Starts 9m right of BL and follows a meandering crack that is quite prominent if you step back from the crag. Climb the crack to a good belay ledge at 20m, belay here and traverse right to exit. Mark Rewi, Jock Morse 27/07/00

Perfect Ending 5m 17

An exposed but fun direct finish for LWC, from the ledge climb directly up on the left side of the scoop. Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 23/08/00

Perfect Winter Sunday 18m 13

Difficult to locate but worth finding, starting about 15m right of LWC this climb takes an aesthetic line of cracks and ledges that lead to a left facing open book corner at half height, which provides delightful bridging. Mark Rewi, Greg Cox 30/07/00

Never Again 19m 10

Don't bother finding this one. Takes the face between PWS and ME, start as for PWS then step right and wander up in search of protection. Steve Greig, Sam Latz, 26/08/00

Mixed Emotions 18m 15

You'll love it or hate it, I've done both. Start below a cavelet in the middle of the wall 5m right PWS. Up through the cavelet then follow the cracks and ledges above. Krish Seewraj, Sam Latz 30/07/00

Country & Western Wall

This wall is less than half the height, and located immediately right of Horseyard Crag. The top of the crag is level with the top of Horseyard Crag and to gain access to the base you need to scramble up at various places, the easiest being from the right hand end. The wall is short and steep with some nice sustained lines, while there is generally good protection the rock is loose in places. Descend to the east or west.

Slim Dusty 9m 13

Two words that describe the protection on this climb, taking the line through the highest section of the wall at its left end. Start in the guano stained scoop, nice moves but watch out for loose rock. Take the path of least resistance to the top. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 20/09/00

Leroy the Line Dancing Legend 8m 14

Approximately 5m right of SD, a lovely climb that dances up the twin slightly right trending lines toward the left end of the wall. Sam Latz, Goshen Watts 18/06/00

Boot Scootin' Beryl 7m 14

Straight up the almost vertical crack line approximately 4m right of LLDL, while Beryl is short she is fun. Sam Latz, Goshen Watts 18/06/00

Smilin' Coyote 7m 15

A fun climb with good rock and protection. Start as for BSB, at half height step left onto a flake, then straight up into a short crack. Goshen Watts, Sam Latz 18/06/00

Pick Pocket 7m 14

A climb that tries to be independent of its neighbours but loose rock prevents it. Start up the crack 1m right of BSB, follow the line as closely as possible ducking left to the crack of BSB when the rock deteriorates and then stepping back right into the line just after half height. Warwick Beever, Steve Warren 11/12/04

Skippy 7m 16

Delicate moves on good rock. Start up a thin crack 6m of PP and underneath a prominent pillar in the upper section of the wall. Follow the crack and gain a ledge on the right, from here up the fun right facing corner. Krish Seewraj, Sinead Foster 11/12/04

Contrived 7m 10

Follow the crack 3m right of S, exit to the right of the large hanging block and continue on a direct line.. Steve Warren, Warwick Beever 11/12/04

54m To Go 6m 10

Approximately 10m right of C is a wide vertical crack, a tricky start yields to better holds and easier climbing. Warwick Beever, Krish Seewraj 08/12/04

Hit and Run 6m 8

Start another 3m to the right, up the right slanting crack and corner and awkwardly past a block. Then easier climbing up the corner above. Krish Seewraj, Sinead Foster 11/12/04

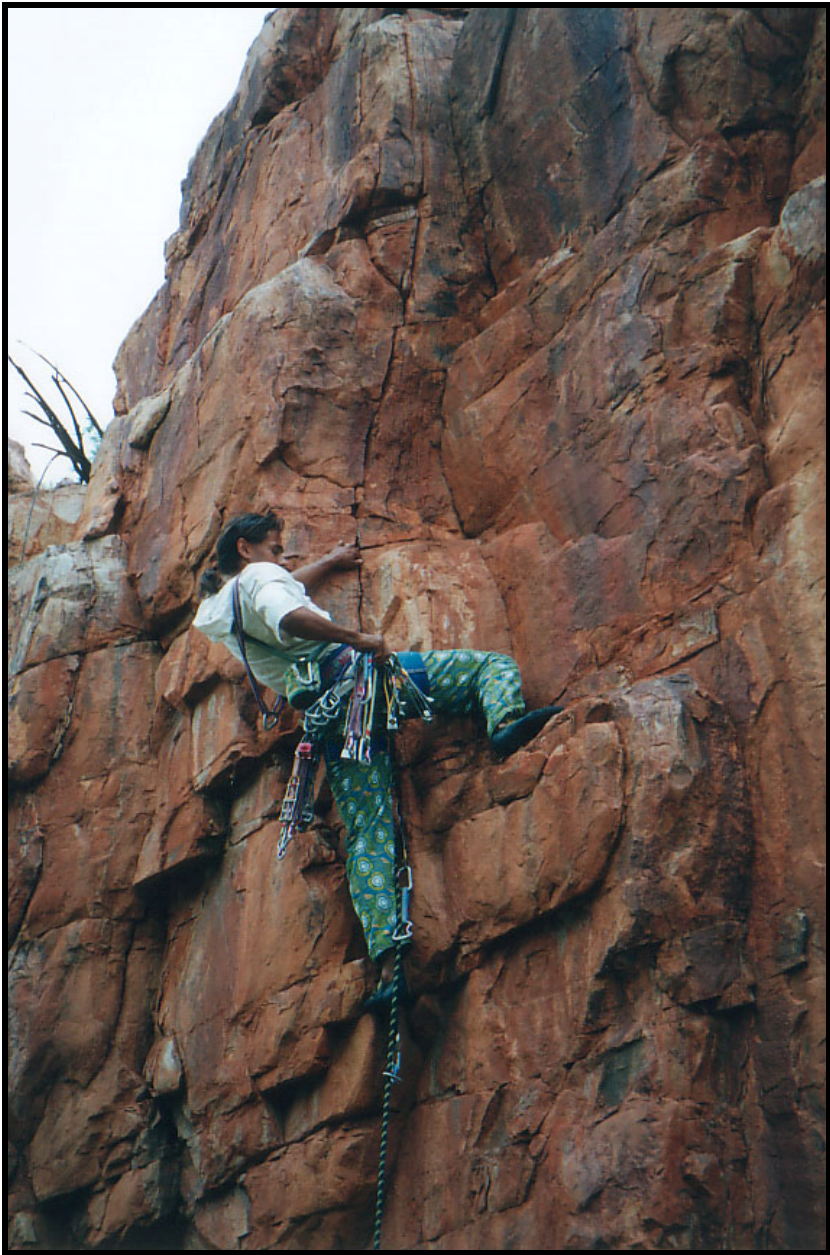
Buffalo Soldiers 8m 20

Worth hunting out, this excellent steep finger crack with great protection and rock is located at the right end of the crag and starts in the gully a few meters right of HAR. Struggle up the crack past a solid chock stone, continue through easier moves to finish up the wider crack. Goshen Watts, Sam Latz, Dan Ewald 18/06/00

The following climb goes up the right hand end of the wall below Country and Western Wall.

Rude Awakening 8m 16

Scramble up just to the left of a large cave until forced to make an exposed step onto the cracked wall. Follow the right tending cracks up to a steep blocky finish. Krish Seewraj, Warwick Beever 08/12/04



Krish Seewraj on Pure Delight - 19

Sandbag Wall

This small wall lurking in the wilderness is hard to distinguish from the road, located some 25m right from Country and Western Wall and directly opposite the main entrance of Glenrowan horse stables. Look for the clean right facing corner that provides a great climb.

Pure Delight 8m 19

Excellent! Climb up via hanging flakes to the right facing corner, which is climbed with increasing difficulty. Solid protection but the sloping holds makes this climb harder than it looks. Krish Seewraj, Jock Morse 23/09/00

Test Run 8m 10

The crack to the right of PD and then the slab above. Warwick Beever, Krish Seewraj 14/12/02

To the right and a little way up hill of Sandbag Wall is a face. The left end of which has a series of ramps and corners whilst the right hand end is clean, devoid of protection and holds.

Absent Friends 12m 12

Absent gear, follow the ramps and corners up at the left end of the face. Karl Godden, Anthea 30/11/02

Pyramid Wall

Another little crag that is worth searching out, with some fun climbs. Walk another 30m right from Sandbag Wall and look for the orange-red wall with a prominent inverted V shaped roof of Hotfoot, with a guano streak ledge just below it.

Jugs Galore 13m 17

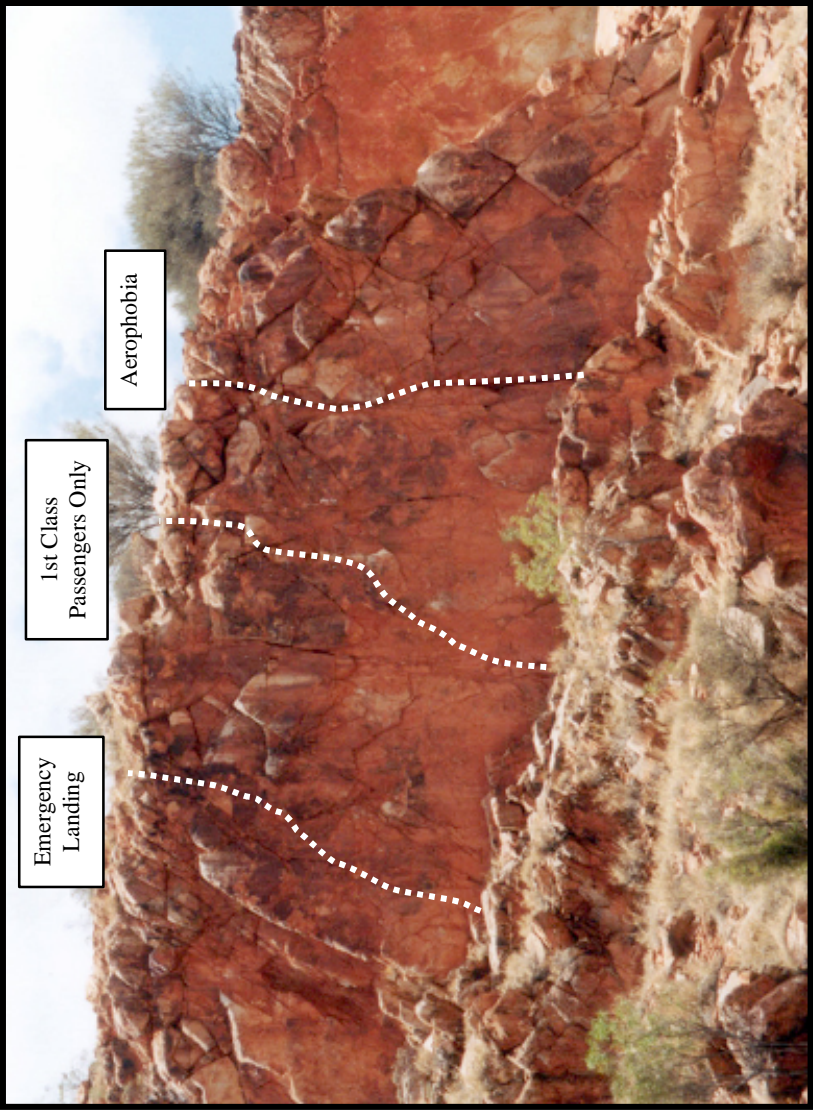
A fun climb but be prepared for a grade stretching crux. Located about 6m from the left hand end of the crag and starting at a big detached flake. Up the right side and then mantle onto the top of the flake, a hard move off the flake before heading up crack in the dark face above. Krish Seewraj, Jock Morse 23/09/00

Make Mine Volleys 13m 21

Excellent. Starts 4m right of JG, take RP's and climb the faint but good thin left trending line up the head wall to reach a large ledge. From the large ledge power up middle of headwall to top. Originally climbed by Sam Latz and Jock Morse using a pre-placed sling to protect the head wall, although hard to protect it is possible and has since been climbed without. Krish Seewraj 07/01

Hotfoot 14m 18

A tricky climb starting at a large scoop 1m right of MMV. Straight up carefully using the pale flake immediately right of the scoop to gain the above ledge. From here up the right leaning corner past the guano streaked shelf, awkwardly through the notch at top of the corner to gain a left rising ramp for which the beached whale approach has proved useful for quite a few people. Krish Seewraj, Jock Morse 23/09/00



Stegar Road Crags - Flight Path Crag

Jamming with my Friends 12m 14

A fun line starting immediately right of H. Up the right facing corner and face above to the ledge, continue via a crack in the wall and wedged block above. Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 07/10/00

The next climb is hidden in-between Pyramid Wall and Flight Path Crag, being approximately 40m left of Flight Path Crag it is not obvious hence the name.

Secret Pleasures 12m 19

Start underneath the inverted V shaped rooflet, bridge up and make weird moves to gain the crack above continuing direct until forced to make a step left to continue on the exposed face above. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj, Justin Harrison 07/01

Flight Path Crag

This small good quality wall is opposite the second last house on Stegar Rd and about 100m right of Horseyard Crag, it is best located by looking for the clean blasted boulders immediately to its right. Descend to the left looking at the crag.

Emergency Landing 10m 17

Great climbing 1m from the left end of the crag, climb direct for 5m to the rightward slanting crack line which is followed to the top. Sam Latz, Krish Seewraj 28/05/00

UFO (Unpredictable Flying 'olds) 11m 18

Taking several ground up attempts due to crumbling holds this now provides another fun line 3m right of EL. A thin rightward slanting crack can be reached after a few airy and unprotected moves, after the crack mantleshelf onto the ledge and finish up the slightly overhanging wall. Krish Seewraj, Sam Latz 28/05/00

1st Class Passengers Only 11m 20

Almost in the middle of the wall and 6m right of UFO is a flake at 3m. Unprotected but surprisingly comfortable moves enable the flake to be reached. Place your protection and then move up and right to reach a narrow shelf. From here, a difficult move up and left to the prominent rightward slanting crack, which is followed until a direct finish can be made. Krish Seewraj, Sam Latz 11/06/00

Landing Gear 11m 14

Gear is sketchy (prepare for landing) and the climbing isn't much better. Climb the ragged wide crack 3m right of FCPO passing a cavelet at half height. Krish Seewraj, Sam Latz 13/05/00

Aerophobia 11m 14

Another wide broken crack 3m right of LG, better gear and slightly harder moves. Climb direct trending right at the top. Sam Latz, Krish Seewraj 11/06/00

Section 13.2 - Blatherskite (Ilparpa) Range

To get there head south from Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway taking the second right after driving through Heavitree Gap. The crags are scattered along the ranges on the south side of Ilparpa Road and are on Crown Land. The rock quality is generally not bad but there are some dubious sections so care should be taken.

The approaches are never hard but be careful when walking through the buffle grass that has taken over this area, as it is hard to see the ground. Facing north and with views over the Ilparpa swamp (and the sewerage farm!) early morning is a good time to be here both for the coolest parts of the day but also to see the abundant bird life. The crags and routes are described from left to right, starting at a gully with a small, red, east-facing crag that has a prominent white streak.

Gully A - On-call Crag

Named as such because the first climbers to visit this area were all on-call. Due to the clear line between the crag and the telephone masts above Heavitree Gap it probably has the best mobile phone signal in the region. Look for the white streak as the next four climbs are on this crag.

One Touch Dialling 7m 6

Just for fun, the narrow slab on the south face of the crag left of AA. Dan Ewald (solo) 07/05/00

Analog Arete 8m 14

The arête left of the white streak, climb the middle of the lower wall to jugs then straight over prow. Jock Morse, Dan Ewald, Krish Seewraj 07/05/00

Telepathic Hugs 10m 17

The right facing corner immediately left of the white streak. Start on the right side of the streak, then up the corner and face continuing on the hand crack above. Protection is sparse and thin with a ground fall risk at 3/4 height, from crux. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald, Jock Morse 07/04/00

Digital Slab 8m 15

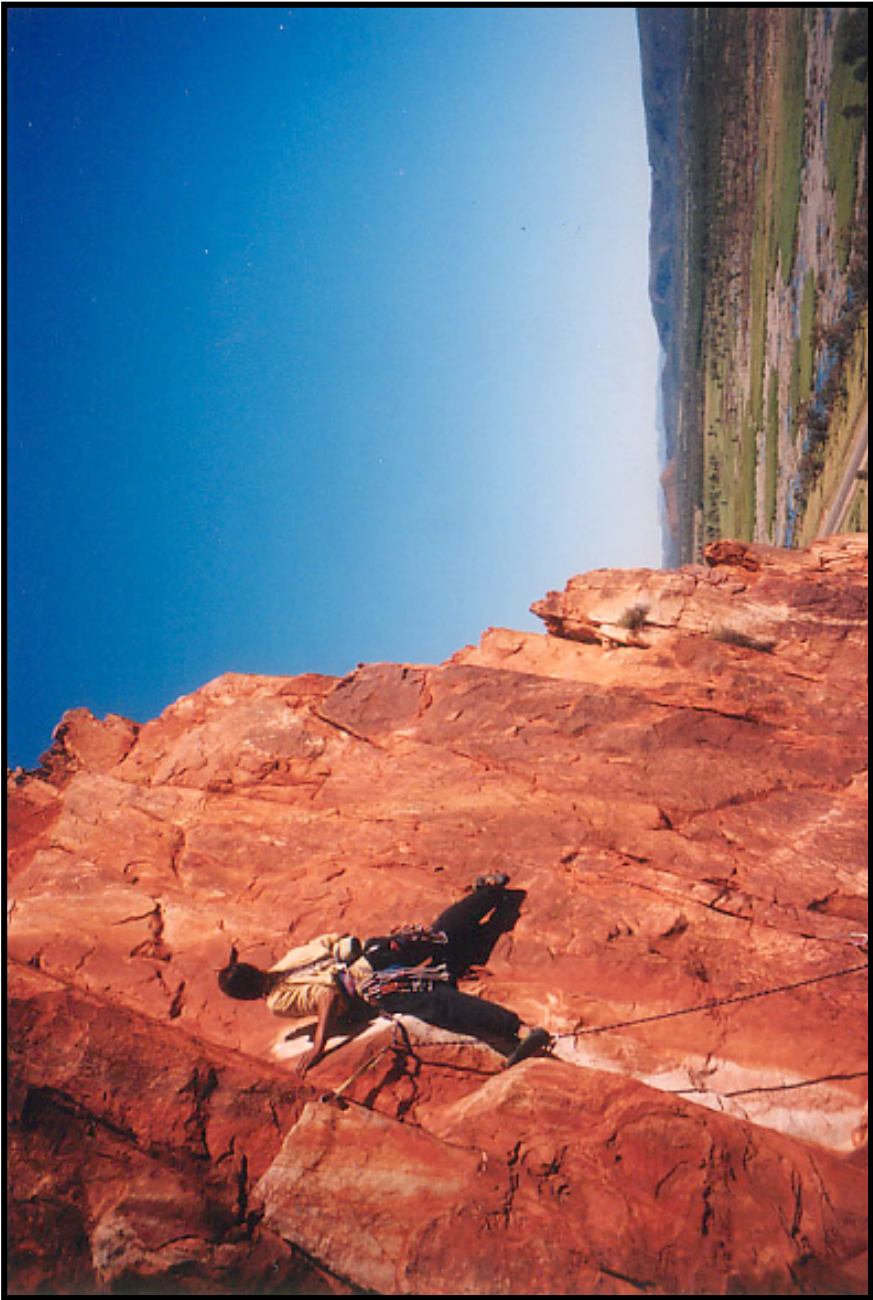
Starting 3m right of TH climb the short wall and then up the slab to finish on ledge near top. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald, Jock Morse 07/04/00

Gully B

The next gully can be accessed by scrambling along the range and is best identified by a 9m high east facing blocky crag with crossed vertical and horizontal cracks. Split Ends follow the crack in the middle of the main face.

Split Ends 9m 14

Climb the leftward rising ramp to reach the base of the crack in the middle of the main face, from here make an awkward move up the crack to reach the ledge at half height. Continue direct and finish up the slab to the top. Doug Linn, Krish Seewraj 03/06/00



Krish Seewraj on the first ascent of Telepathic Hugs - 17

Wireless 9m 15

Fun and safe, climb the crack immediately right of the main face gain the horizontal break above and then move up and left onto the slab, continue more easily. Krish Seewraj, Doug Linn 03/06/00

Gully C

Scramble even further along the range and look for a 15m high, shallow angled slab that faces east. The first two climbs are on the shorter wall opposite this slab and facing west with a pinnacle at its left end, the third climb being on the longer east facing slab.

Air Waves 8m 18

Climb the thin vertical crack that passes through the scoop at the left end of the crag and ascend the steep but juggy wall above, run out with potential ground fall from 3/4 height, just above crux. Krish Seewraj, 13/08/00

Radio Crack 8m 13

The line 2m right of AW, up the crack in the middle of the face. Krish Seewraj, Doug Linn 03/06/00

Head Lacerations 15m 13

Start at the twin vertical cracks in the middle of the short wall below the slab. Layback and continue direct to a ledge, climb the leftward slanting crack in the slab above and follow the left arête to the top. Dave Brown, Steve Greig 03/06/00

Crag D - Mosquito Wall

This crag is further along the range and is best accessed from the road. Drive along to just before the swamp lookout area and well before the left turn that goes to the Gun Club, look up for the most prominent west facing and slightly overhanging 14m face. It offers the best climbing on this range and is worth the effort, even being good for early summer mornings as it faces west.

Ugly Duckling 10m 17

Originally described from a visual inspection as “crack between face and a small pillar on its downhill side, looks ugly”. The overhanging crack at the left hand end of the crag and a few meters from the main face is great fun and worth doing. Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 27/08/02

A Matter of Time 14m 17

Excellent. Originally called “Mental Block” in Aug 98’ when it was first top roped by Jock Morse and various others, this climb had been waiting for an ascent for too long..... so we climbed it. Start up the thin crack at the left end of the main face, then make a rising rightward traverse to the small roof below the overhanging corner. Pull over the roof and jug on up the corner to the top. Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 27/08/02

Sam Cooke 14m 16

Another fun line although the top section is dubious, starting approximately 3m right of AMOT. Climb the face and finish through the overhanging and broken rock at the top. Paul Cooke, Sam Latz, 10/12/98

Sam Cooke (alternative finish) 14m 16

A much better way to do the climb avoiding the broken finish, climb SC but step left to finish up the roof and corner of AMOT. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 27/08/02

About 20m left of Mosquito Wall is a prominent V cleft, the slab on the left side provides some fun lines. For all three climbs it is recommended to belay on the ground rather than at the base of the slab, climbing the left hand arête and then stepping right to gain the slab:

Mad Mark 18m 13

Climb the arête. Mark Rewi (Solo) 1998

Risky Rewi 18m 13

Climb the slab immediately right of the arête. Mark Rewi (Solo) 1998

Is Mark Going Soft? 18m 14

Climb 2m right of RR at the steepest part of the slab. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 27/08/02

Section 13.3 - Swanson, Lillicrapp Rd Area

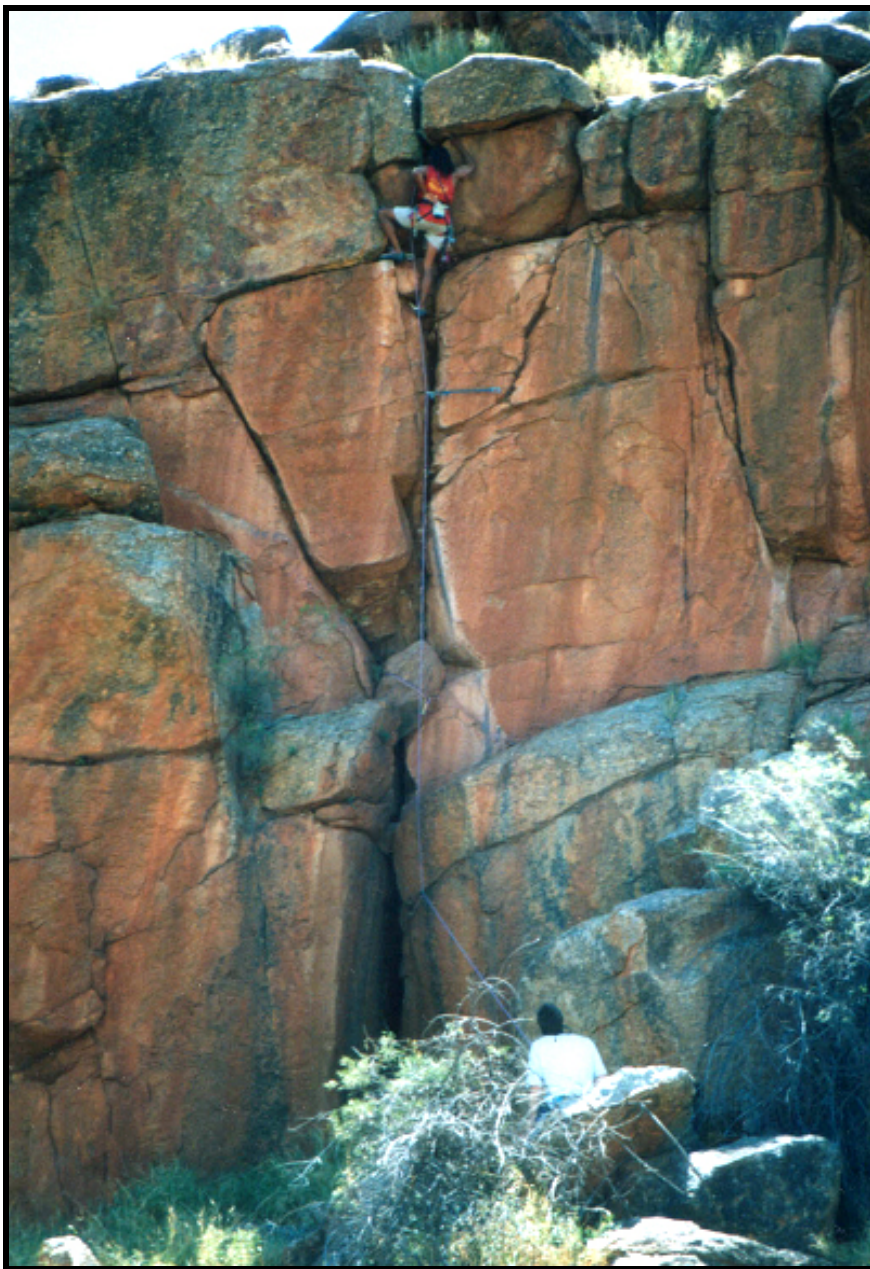
Another 5km along Illparpa Road is a section of crags that look good, several have been visited but only one climb has been done, probably due to the sparse protection and highly dubious nature of the rock. To reach this area, drive for 6km along Illparpa Road and turn left into Lillicrapp Road, follow this to its end. Access is through private land so ask for permission first. A steep face with a prominent guano streak has been checked out. Although not very inviting is a good way to locate the next face called Sunday Crag, which is approximately 40m left from this streak. It is best identified by its steep west facing wall with a sloping ramp rising to the right from its base.

Lost and Found 18m 18

It is worth looking after your car keys in these areas, as we found out. The climb has an avoidable crux low down and starts on the narrow west face at the right hand side of the buttress. Climb the crack, without using the easy ramp, to the top of the flake at 5m continuing up the face past a projecting block. Krish Seewraj, Steve Grieg, Jock Morse, Bradley Nott 27/08/00

Section 13.4 - Honeymoon Gap

A pleasant west facing crag for sunny winter afternoons or hot summer mornings, located on Crown Land. Honeymoon Gap is a small and broken crag with two prominent crack lines a distant couple of meters from where you can park your car! There is also some good, hard bouldering on the other side of the creek bed. Drive out of town on Larapinta Drive. Just after the Simpson Gap turnoff take the next left, which is only a 100m or so further out. The gap is about 1km down this road. Alternatively after visiting the Illparpa range continue west on Illparpa road. Honeymoon Gap is where the creek bed almost meets the road. It is possible that there were earlier ascents of the LH and RH variants of The Honeymoon is Over between 1974 and 1976, see Section 2.



Krish Seewraj belayed by Dan Ewald on the first ascent of Deception - 19

The Honeymoon is Over LHV 25m 15

The better line, which is steep in places but has lots of small wire placements. The rock is full of slip surfaces making for sloppy holds and the rock is generally pretty good but still very Centralian. Climb the left hand crack in the west facing wall. At the top there are a couple of old pegs indicating an earlier ascent, don't use these as there are two solid ring bolts five or so meters further up. Kieran Culhane, Eryne Hali 22/10/96

The Honeymoon is Over RHV 25m 15

The right hand variant. Kieran Culhane, Eryne Hali 22/10/96

Across the creek bed the ranges continue, the following climb is at the eastern end on the north face.

Sunstroke Gully 43m 5

Look for the most prominent corner, just east of this is an easy looking chimney and corner that is climbed. John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 01/10/72

Section 13.5 - Wallaby Crag

This little crag has similar rock to that of Charles Creek but has not seen many visits giving rise to plenty of loose holds. It is in a National Park and is a pain to get to, either cycle out on the Simpson Gap cycle path (which starts at Flynn's Grave) until it is possible to turn right. This track leads to a shade structure and picnic table, the crag is located approximately 50m north west from here on the right side of the creek bed. The alternative way in is to drive through a marked gate on the Larrapinta Highway, the track takes you to this picnic site but you are not allowed to leave your car there as it is a track specifically for drop offs only. So you need to drop your gear and passengers drive back out and then cycle back in, all for one climb.

Deception 10m 19

The left end of the crag is overhung, immediately right of this section is a vertical crack. Ascend the crack starting in the back of short gully with awkward and sustained climbing. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald 05/11/00

Section 13.6 - Mt Gillen

Mt Gillen stands proud just southeast from Alice Springs and cannot be missed, it provides a brooding spectacle on many a sunset. The rock is highly variable and climbing here is very adventurous and, as such should only be attempted by experienced parties. Although on Crown Land it is known to be of significance in the local Dreamtime of the Fighting Dog. The local Emergency Service Volunteer Unit uses parts of Mt Gillen as an abseil rescue exercise site and it is therefore likely that they have gone through the official channels to obtain a Certificate of Compliance, see Section 4. However, the areas used for their exercises are not the parts in which the following climbs are listed.

Access from the roadside is an hour slog up steep slopes to its base, and the descent can turn into to an even longer slog unless you are prepared to leave gear. There is a walking track that leads to the top of Mount Gillen, which starts 300m west from Flynn's Grave (5km from town on the Larapinta Highway) and winds it way up spurs to the top and not too far from the trig point which can be seen from the road. There is at least one ascent of a large slab to the left of the trig point but no records

were left. The leader could not be found but the second said he couldn't remember anything because it was "the scariest thing I've done in my life... ever!" Despite this, some good lines do exist.

This one may be hard to find, it starts approximately 550m east of Heavytrees Gap and ascends the solitary prominent corner that starts half way up the face.

Rocky Road to Dublin 80m 13

1. 35m Climb up past ledges and a corner with a bush in it to belay below an overhung block.
2. 45m Step left and climb the groove above, up broken ground until it is possible to gain and climb the corner.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 02/06/73

Approximately 150m left of the official access track there exists a huge blank white roof, this can be used to locate the following climb.

Midnight Express 57m 21

1. 25m 12 Start directly below the vast roof and trend left through small overlaps and corners to attain a ledge. Traverse approximately 6m right to belay just right of the roof. This is a nice little pitch that could be abseiled from if the difficulties above seem too much.
2. 12m 21 Old style and powerful. Follow left trending flake from belay to below the right end of the roof. Make committing moves up into the roof chimney then thrutch, corkscrew and jam anything that fits through chimney and roofs above.
3. 20m Move left around an arête then follow an easy ramp off up and left. A number of excellent and difficult (and dare I say committing) exit pitches exist above and to the right of the second belay, or at least I think they do... it was the middle of the night when we got there!

Neil Melan, Mark Rewi (alt) 09/03/98

The next climb may also be hard to find and was identified as being on an orange slab above the main scree slope directly behind Flynn's Grave, you may find this scree slope hard to identify due to the infestation of the weed Ruby Dock, see Section 7.

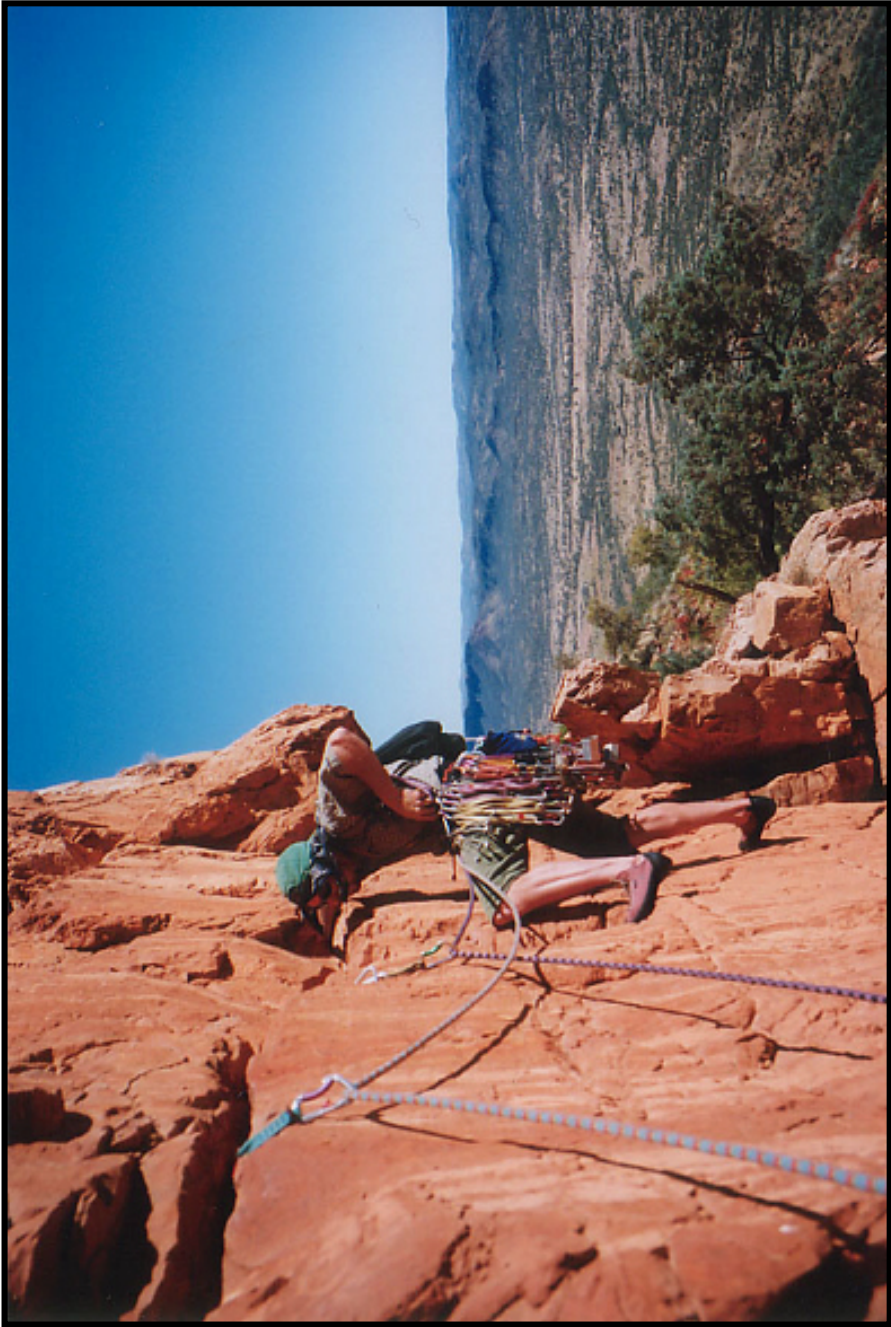
The Lights Below 60m 16

Another climb completed outside the quota of light.

1. 20m 16 The face and then corner system just left of a prominent flake high on the slab. Past very dangerous loose blocks to a layback flake just left of the prominent flake on the slab. Belay at a small ledge.
2. 20m 16 Delightful. Climb the slab left of the flake tending right towards a dagger feature on the skyline, belay on the ledge above.
3. 20m 14 Climb diagonally right up a chossy looking but surprisingly good wall.

Mark Rewi, Sam Latz (alt) 07/06/98

The next climb is approximately 150m east of the widest spur reaching the top of the range and located behind and left of Flynn's Grave. It follows a clean looking slab with rooflets at half height that looked good from below but proved to be a pile of choss. By bivvying out the night before, this day's climbing did not end in darkness.



Mark Revi on the first ascent of A Most Unlikely Journey - 17

A Most Unlikely Journey 50m 17

1. 40m 17 The face and slab above to belay at a good horizontal break 5m below the rooflets.
2. 10m 14 The escape - traverse right along the horizontal break until a large ledge is reached, from here it is possible to scramble along to the spur.

Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi (alt) 08/00

These Days 40m 17

Divine! Taking the left facing corner below the large arched roof approximately 100m right of AMUJ. Up the corner to the roof, airy moves out right to gain the slab on the main face above, continue direct on good, but unseen holds. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 08/00

Days Like These 15m 14

Fun. From the top of TD, head up and right to find another fun looking but short right facing corner with a capping roof. Up the corner and traverse right to the end of the roof before continuing up.

Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 08/00

Section 13.7 - Charles Creek

This easily accessible crag is in the Telegraph Station Conservation Reserve just north of Alice Springs. From town head north on the Stuart Highway, a few kilometres out of town and immediately after the "Welcome to Alice Springs" sign, turn right onto the old north road. You will know if you have gone too far as you'll drive over the high Charles Creek bridge. Follow the part dirt, part sealed road that is bumpy in places but never too bad until the main road bridge is visible, there is a grassy lay-by on the right. Park here and follow the tracks that head east towards the creek bed. The rock is good, resembling weak granite and giving holds uncharacteristic of the usual Heavytree Quartzite. There is some great bouldering at the far left end of the crags, this is also where Where's Wally is to be found. The bolts in this area were placed some years before the first recorded ascents listed here and, earlier unrecorded ascents are therefore likely see Section 2.

Where's Wally? 6m 16

At the left hand end of the creek bed, before it takes a sharp turn to the east look out for the ugly D shackle in the overhanging left facing corner. Tricky moves out of small alcove and up over the roof above, better as a boulder problem than a lead with a soft sandy landing. Alison Garrett, Kieran Culhane, Dominic Leadbeater 02/07/95

Approximately 50m to the right is the main crag, traversing the base is a good way to warm up and get used to the different style rock.

Boulder Away 6m 13

The grade is right if you can reach the start jug, otherwise it is a bit harder. Really a high top boulder problem starting below a well concealed piton at 3m height and 5m from the left end of crag. Who knows who climbed it first, but the piton would suggest it was a long time ago.

Tears on my Pillow 8m 11

The prominent crack 10m right of the left end of the crag, just left of small arête, up and then trending right from the shelf at half height to a DBB. Alison Garrett, Steve Thornton 12/02/95

Alley Cat 8m 13

Kind of nice, the left trending crack 1m right of TOMP to small ledge. Step right, then up to belay as for TOMP. Alison Garrett, Colin Crowe 21/09/95

Unsuspected 10m 18

Airy and fun starting as for AC but once off the ground climbs the steep face immediately to the right. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 07/01

Tricky Moments 10m 19

Great fun being steep and sustained. Starts below and follows the line of BRs just right of U. Up the large scoop to a block, then thin moves up past two BRs easier ground reaches a DBB. Alison Garrett, Steve Thornton 12/08/95

Face Value 10m 20

Another great sustained line with one FH and two BRs showing the way up the blank looking face a couple of meters right of TM. Climb the bulge and clip the FH, then tricky moves past the next two BRs and continue to belay as for TM at the DBB. Alison Garrett, Steve Thornton 12/08/95

All Chossed Up 10m 18

Not worth looking at, take the muddy looking excuse for a crack 1m right of FV and then the ramp to DBB. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton, Steve Thornton 17/02/96

The next three lines are on the slab to the right of All Chossed Up. The bolts referenced in the original descriptions, as given below, are not easily identifiable. Some have been chopped and others may have been removed. Smear Madness Direct probably follows much of the same line as Smear Madness but starts just left, and it is hard to separate Poker Face from the two. Due to the missing bolts it would not be wise to lead these climbs but they are great fun, and it is recommended to top rope them.

Poker Face 10m 21

The face 1.5m right of ACU, up this and trend right to a BR at 4 m, then up past the BR on SM where it trends left, then right up the steep bulge to a DBB. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 17/02/96

Smear Madness Direct 10m 19

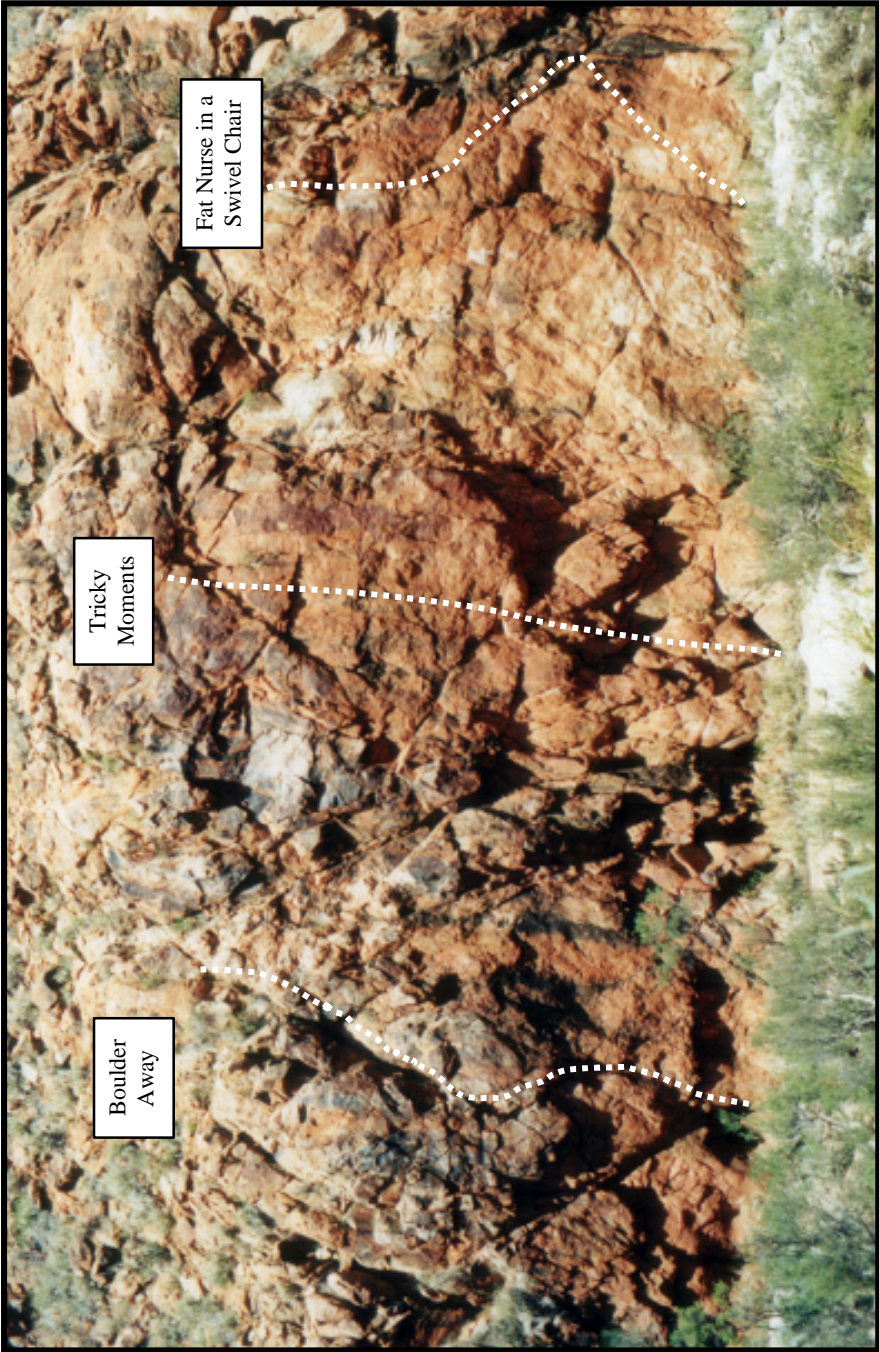
Directly up middle of the slab past three BRs to a DBB, don't sneak right. Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton 07/94

Smear Madness 10m 20

The best of the three: Start 1m right of SMD. Up the slab past two BRs to a loose, narrow (finger) ledge then left and up past a FH to chossy territory and over the bulge to the DBB. Alison Garrett, Steve Thornton 12/08/95

Fat Nurse in a Swivel Chair 10m 16

Good, but scary between bolts with a possible ground fall from just below the second bolt, taking the face just right of the SM slab. From the scar up and right past a BR to gain the left trending break, airily follow this to clip the second BR, more easily above but with limited opportunities for protection to a DBB. Alison Garrett, Steve Thornton 12/08/95



Charles Creek

The next three climbs are on a small buttress 15m further right, the middle one being a project with three BRs.

The Beautiful Ragni 8m 20

The crack on the left edge of the face, sparse on gear. Mark Rewi, Jason Geres 07/01

Razor Blades 8m 26

A thin, steep bolted line up the middle of the face, as far as it is known Mark Rewi has got the closest so far and has duly given the name that is very appropriate. The first free ascent is awaited.

The Object of Dave's Desire 8m 16

A pumpy crack on the right edge of the face, with a small arête to it's right. Mark Rewi, Jason Geres 07/01

Section 14 - West McDonnell Ranges

Section 14.1 - Simpson Gap Crag

Drive approximately 16km west of Alice Springs on the Larapinta Drive, take a right turn into Simpson Gap National Park. Follow the road for 8km to a car park. The crags are on the south facing walls on the ranges approximately 500m and 1km east of the gap, back towards town and within the National Park boundaries. The gap is a great relaxing and culturally significant place so it is worth taking time to visit and relax, but do not climb in the gap itself.

The rock on of these crags is good although there may be the odd bit of loose rock. The lines are generally clean and solid with good protection. They have a wild feel about them, situated quite high above the valley floor with a beautiful view west in-between the two ranges. As the approach to these crags is remote bush walking, be prepared and take it easy, there is plenty of loose terrain to destabilise the hasty walker.

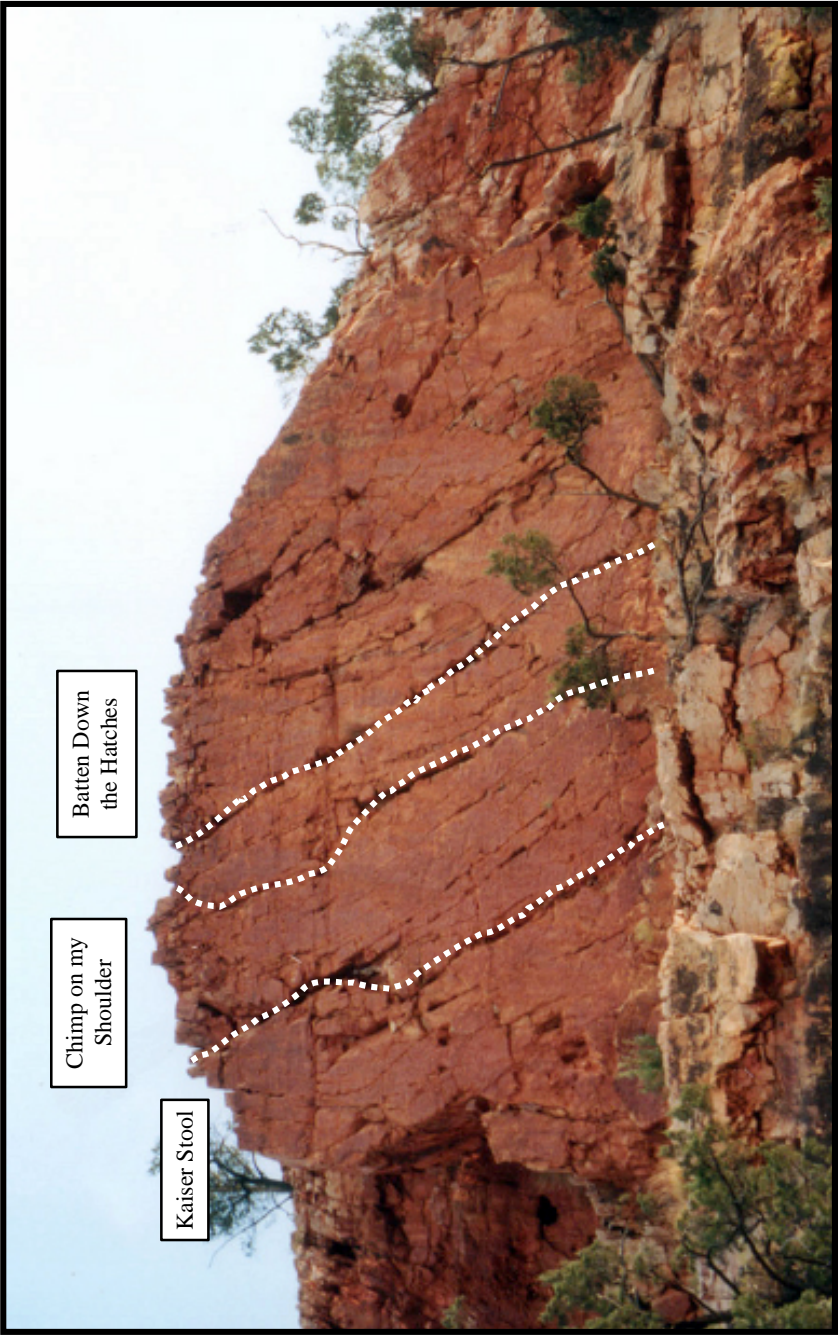
As you drive towards the car park, look up and right. You will see a small clean looking face about 500m east of the gap just above the scree and vegetation, it looks like a window looking out over the valley. This is Window Crag and hosts a couple of great lines. To get there from the car park takes approximately 25 minutes and involves a bit of a scramble at the end. Another 500m further east is the Garden Wall, much bigger but harder to locate from the car park, look for a west facing wall with a number of clean looking vertical lines. As you get closer the steep green/black and orange south facing wall comes into view. Walking from the car park will take up to 45 minutes depending on your fitness and path finding abilities. An alternative route with less scrub is to follow the Larapinta trail east for about 1km until it rises and runs between the main cliff line and a small outlier hill. From here follow the ridge up to the east side of the large scree slopes. The Garden Wall can't be missed with its stunning blank looking 25m wall. The third area is about 1000m east of the Garden Wall, to get there follow the Larapinta Trail. After the 22km sign on the trail there is a sweeping left bend, from here look up at the ranges to the right and you will see a gothic line that splits the range from top to bottom at the highest part of the range. Follow the trail for another 500m before heading up to the base of the crag. It will take about an hour to walk here from the car park.

Window Crag

A smooth and clean looking face until you get closer and then the features begin to show, the face is in fact a detached block with an easy exit behind. At the base and in the middle of the crag there is a small White Cypress Pine; the route locations are described in relation to this tree. The descent is made by either sacrificing a sling and abseiling off or down climbing the back face, then scrambling down the gully. Climbs are described from right to left.

Batten Down the Hatches 15m 19

A brilliant climb on good rock with solid gear. Starting 1.5m right of the pine follow the thin left trending crack with a small peapod opening at half height. Start easily but be prepared for a sting in the tail. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 13/03/02



Simpson Gap Crags - Window Crag

Chimp on my Shoulder 15m 20

Another wonderful climb, with positive holds and good gear. However, care should be taken to avoid the loose blocks at the top by exiting right 1m below the top. Start immediately left of the small pine, climb up to and follow the left trending crack a couple of meters left of BDTH. When the crack seems to run out exposed moves up and left gain a second crack where the holds get smaller and the wall steepens, at the top trend right. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres, Pat Spiers 27/03/02

Kaiser Stool 15m 16

The bottom half of the climb is clean, great fun and has bomber gear. Although the rock deteriorates higher up it is still a worthwhile line with enjoyable moves. Follow the thin left trending crack immediately left of COMS until half height where you join the wide crack/narrow chimney. Tackle the bulge above and continue to the top. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj 27/03/02

How Much is that Doggie? 18m 14

Solid gear but marred by loose rock especially near the top. Starting five meters to the left of the main crag behind a large White Cypress Pine. Climb the broken looking line up to a small White Cypress Pine above, exit left to avoid some of the loose rock and the spinifex lurking at the top. To descend scramble right to the gully behind window crag. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 13/11/02

The Garden Wall

An array of corners and faces with some stunning climbs that make this a must visit crag, however due to the problematic descents only experienced climbers should venture here. Take some spare slings/tape that you are willing to leave behind. The following are the best descents for the climbs:

- From the top of the first three climbs it is possible to abseil using the ghost gum, this is risky and it is more advisable to sacrifice a large sling or place your rope over the large pinnacle in-between ACITW and TGC.
- GN, PF and WTG have in-situ slings only just allowing an abseil with a 50m rope. Remember to tie a knot in the ends of your rope and if the slings need replacing please take the old slings away with you.
- TU, OWTD, MG and MB all share the same last pitch, which is never hard but is fraught with loose rock. When established a large tree provided a good twin rope abseil anchor, however this tree has since deteriorated significantly and it is a long walk off.

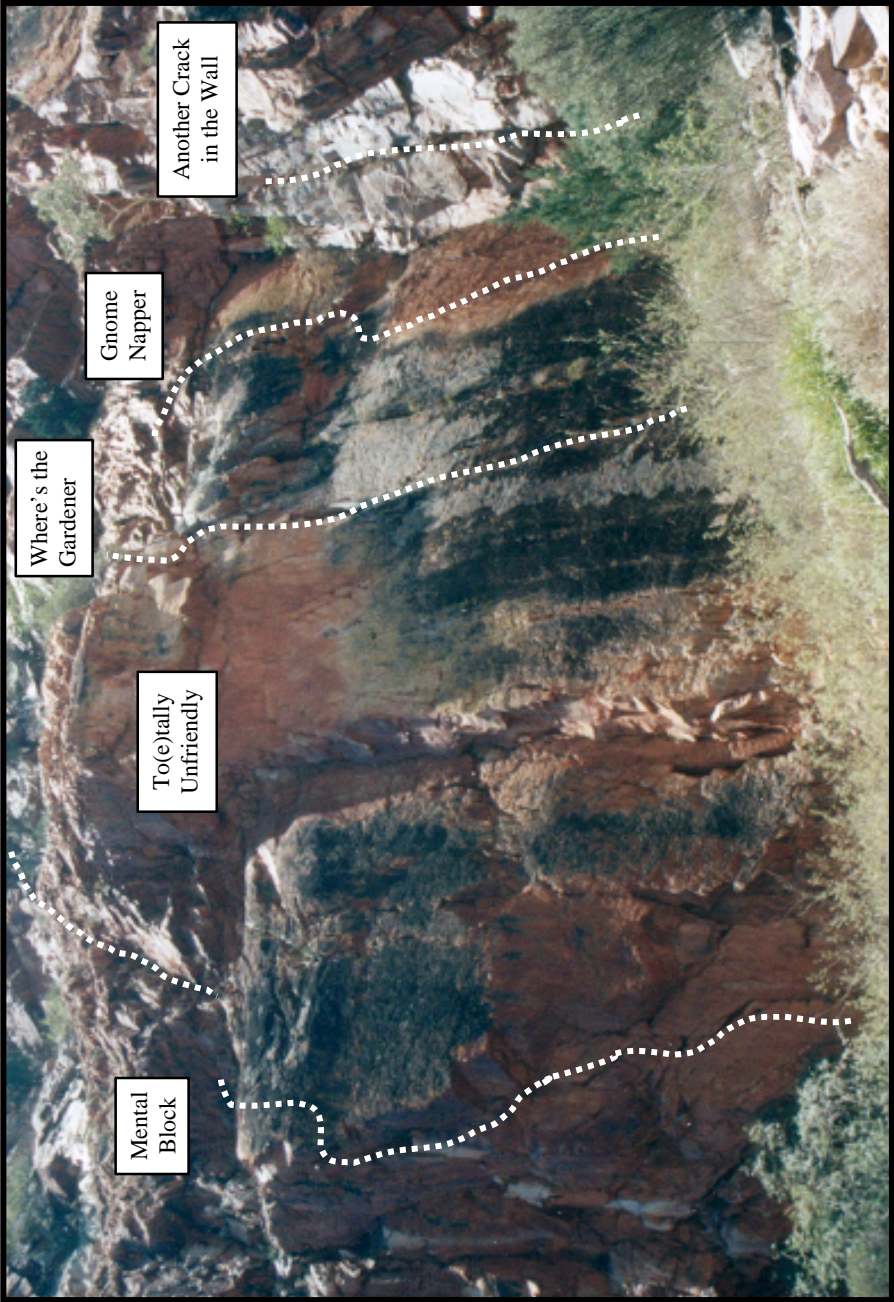
Climbs are described from right to left. To get orientated look for the corner at the right end of the main face, which has a slight west facing recess providing the wonderful Garden Closet.

All the Way to Cracksville 15m 13

The vertical crack 4m right of the corner, good protection and moves up the cracks until you can traverse left to a ledge. It is also possible to continue on the steeping crack for a further 7m, good climbing leads to a ledge and boulder with a sling to abseil off. Mark Rewi, Ellie Butcher 23/06/02

Another Crack in the Wall 22m 13

Start 2m right of the corner, climb the cracks directly below and up to the Ghost gum with good protection (alternatively and for a safer decent climb for 15m and belay at a ledge). Dan Ewald, Steve Greg 10/01



Simpson Gap Crags - The Garden Wall

The Garden Closet 22m 14

Perfect protection and solid rock make this a great climb. Ascend the recess using the crack on the right to place as many wires as you like. From the top of the twin cracks finish up a further 8m to ghost gum (alternatively for a safer decent climb the exquisite 15m corner and belay at a narrow ledge by a fading spearwood bush). Dan Ewald, Steve Greg 10/01

Gnome Napper 24m 20

Outstanding climbing that is technically sustained with holds and gear appearing when you need them. Follow the thin crack 2m left of TGC until it runs out just below the overhanging headwall, traverse a few meters right have a rest and then continue up the crack system that breaks through this headwall, exit left to the belay ledge where you will find insitu slings. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 06/04/02

Pink Flamingo 24m 20

A direct finish to GN that is good but not as good as the original route. Rather than traversing right below the headwall continue direct and then move left to place gear in the corner just left of the headwall, make an airy step onto the headwall and climb direct to the belay ledge. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj 12/09/02

Where's the Gardener 25m 18

A superb line with some bold moves, following the main crack four meters left of GN. Towards the top, trend left to the base of the overhanging corner, have a rest and make exposed moves to pull through this. Belay immediately above the corner at the insitu slings, if you go too high a 50m rope will not be long enough to get you back down. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 20/03/02

The next three climbs finish at a large but sloppy ledge. They all share a second airy and thought provoking grade 13 pitch that is 20m long, which climbs the V notch and trending right to finish.

To(e)tally Unfriendly 30m 14

Follows the large west facing corner immediately left of the main face, a sustained and interesting climb with good rock. Follow the corner to just below the guano-streaked ledge and traverse up and left on to the slab to belay at a good horizontal crack. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres, Pat Spiers 06/04/02

Optimism Wins the Day 30m 17

A storming and improbable looking line for the grade, starting 4m left of TU. Climb up to and surmount the roof and continue to the ledge, from here on the climbing gets easier but the fun and interest factor continues. Mark Rewi, Krish Seewraj 23/06/02

Mind Games 30m 20

Another classic line that looks dubious but provides excellent moves and positions on good rock with safe protection. Start as for OWTG, but below the roof traverse left with delightful moves and continue up the left facing corner with increasing difficulty and exposure until forced to make an alarmingly airy step right onto the black slab, continue direct. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres, Mark Rewi 23/06/02



Warwick Beaver pushing the vollies while belayed by Karl Godden on The Garden Closet - 14

Mental Block 28m 22

A brilliant direct start to MG that takes the wall immediately left of OWTD and meets MG after the leftwards traverse under the roof. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj 12/09/02

Walking along the Larapinta Trail for two and a half kilometres is the best access for the next two climbs. The area is a mass of rock with no clearly defined outcrop like the previous two locations, but the gothic line of Hammer cannot be missed.

Hammer 35m 17

Scramble up to the base of the crack, the first five meters has lots of loose terrain but here after the rock is very good. An exposed and enjoyable traditional line that heads straight up with good protection, if a little spaced in the upper sections. Garn Cooper, Krish Seewraj 10/01/04

Sickle 40m 15

Another line that is worth seeking out with some airy positions and good protection. It follows the prominent left facing corner right of H and high on the cliff, and tops out 15m right of H at the highest point of the range. To get to the start walk east along the base of the cliff for 50m from where H is accessed, then scramble up and left. Find the most comfortable ledge/belay stance and start up the steep slab, head leftwards up some short corners, from here step into the guano-streaked cavelet. Then up and right to the main corner that takes you to the top and the summit cairn. Krish Seewraj, Garn Cooper 10/01/04

Section 14.2 - The Arch

This little crag is very isolated and takes a while to get to. A 4WD is recommended, as the track can get pretty rough. It offers a couple of great lines on solid rock that are high up on a range, greatly adding to their exposure. Head west along Larapinta Drive, and after 46km turn onto Namatjira Drive, the Hugh River crosses this road approximately 10km after this junction and there is a dirt track on the right just before the main river crossing. Follow this track across several creek beds for approximately 5km, here you'll reach a big creek crossing that passes through a wide gap in a range that runs east west. Drive just past the creek bed and park up, from here there is a 1.5km walk west along the north side of the range. The north facing crag is situated high up on this range at a point where the scree slopes reach the highest point, and is first detectable by two impressive east facing corners. When you get close there is a prominent arch, the climbs are located on a smooth face immediately right of this feature. The decent is a long walk west and a scramble down a gully. The management of this land is currently being transferred from Owen Springs Station to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

Left Bundle Branch Block 20m 10

Start directly below the corner on the right of the arch, tricky moves to gain the ledge then more easily up the wide chimney. Garn Cooper, Dave Koskuba 04/07/03

The Fateful Lightning 20m 18

Start 3m right of LBBB, up an arête to reach a big ledge at 7m. Step right into the brilliant left hand lightning crack, which provides great face moves through to off widths jamming. Garn Cooper, Dave Koskuba 13/07/03

Zig Zag Jug 20m 17

Sustained, fun climbing up the right hand crack with some bridging at the top. Sam Latz, Ben Hodgson 1999

Section 14.3 - Half Moon Buttress

Approximately 17.5km along Namatjira Drive, there is a small disk shaped buttress a few hundred meters north of the road, this crag looks good but isn't worth the walk. The land is within the same area as that of The Arch and as such the management is currently being transferred from Owen Springs Station to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The One, the Only 15m 10

Starting from a small cairn, head straight up the middle of the crag on poor rock with poor protection. Kieran Culhane, Eryne Hali 22/10/96

Section 14.4 - Ellery Creek Crag

Ellery Creek offers an all round destination, for winter there is climbing and for summer there is swimming, it is the outdoor swimming pool of Alice Springs and with the added attraction of campsites this place can at times get busy. Drive along Namatjira Drive for 42km and take a right turn onto a dirt road leading into the National Park. The crags are on the north side of the ranges and you have to swim through the water hole or hike over the ranges to reach them. When the climbs were put up Owen Springs Station managed the north side of the ranges and gave permission for climbing. As with the previous two crags, the management is now being transferred to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

The rock is mostly slabby with a few vertical lines and plenty of looseness. Looking at the north face of the ranges, the climbs are described from right to left. The first three climbs are on a 30m high crag located approximately 500m east of the waterhole just above the scree slopes, a clean prominent right facing corner is the best way to identify it.

Jenga 26m 15

A fun and varied climb starting on the west-facing wall at the right hand end and continuing up the recessed slab on the front face. Climb the cracks until it is possible to traverse left back onto the cracked slab. Climb the middle of the slab and trend left as you approach the roof, pull through the roof and pick your blocks with care as you follow the crack to the top. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 15/07/01

Permit Required 30m 13

An enjoyable and continually interesting climb up the right facing corner, passing a ledge at half height. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 15/07/01

Sara Lee's Coming Home 12m 18

A pale clean looking slab on the upper half of the crag immediately left of the PR, access to the start of the climb is by either climbing PR to the ledge and traversing left or climbing the right face of the corner, both grade 12. Tackle the crack in the middle of the slab, for the bold exit direct others may want to sneak left for an easier finale. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 15/07/01

The next route is located approximately 750m east of the waterhole. Follow the slabs eastwards until you reach a 75m tall orange corner set back in a big recess, the climb starts at the base of a slab immediately left of this recess following the thin cracks.

Hidden Courage 30m 21

Brilliant, sustained and technical climbing that is well protected. Follow the cracks directly up the middle of the slab with increasing difficulty to where they thin out to nothing of use. Just above, there is a small ledge where a no hands rest can be gained. Continue to the second ledge and then easier climbing above, until it is possible to make a leftward traverse to the large ledge where a Ghost Gum grows. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 13/11/01

Section 14.5 - Serpentine Gorge

Serpentine Gorge is a National Park with ambience and comes complete with that big wall feeling because it is immense and isolated. Due to it's towering sides and the protection of a permanent waterhole very few, if any, feral animals venture here and it is therefore a wilderness reserve providing home for many species of unique Central Australian flora and fauna. For this reason do not swim in any of the waterholes inside the gorge. The rock is highly variable and should be treated with extreme care. Whilst the potential exist for big climbs, it is a serious undertaking and only experienced and well equipped climbers should venture here.

Continue past the Ellery Creek turn off for 11km and turn onto the dirt road that leads to the car park of Serpentine Gorge, from here there is a gentle 1km walk to the waterhole protecting the gorge. The right side of the water hole can be climbed but is hard with a full pack, going at grade 17, the best way in would be to float your gear across using a dingy or similar.

It is advised to walk past the first two climbs, they are not worth risking. They are on the last major cliff on the east before you reach the waterhole, and 200m past a large cave high up on the right.

Bull in a China Shop 100m 19

Hideously scary adventure on atrocious rock, beware of precarious loose blocks and questionable protection. Start in major corner 10m left of a grey forked ghost gum (right of smooth solid looking wall with horizontal breaks).

1. 50m 18 A very loose and rope stretching pitch. Up the corner, then faces to first small (thin) hanging gum. Up 3m then tiptoe diagonally right and up to ledge on top of the pinnacle on the right.
2. 30m 19 Even more dangerous! Traverse left round a small corner then up a little to ledges below roof. Traverse left along ledges to easy stance in major corner. Up to a prominent white ghost gum to a solid'ish crack in middle of face to the roof. Traverse right below the roof to belay immediately beyond two very loose blocks on the right.
3. 20m 14 Easier ground to just right of a small roof and right of a large old dead tree at the top.

Steve Thornton, Kieran Culhane (alt) 02/11/96

What the Fuck! 35m 14

Another expedition on loose rock held together by a thin smear of mud. Start 20m right of BIACS and scramble up 10m to a left leaning, forked ghost gum. Follow an ill-defined line to a prominent white ghost gum with large bulbous root. Abseil retreat from this ghost gum, and originally done in two pitches. Nick Isgro, George Butcher 02/11/96

After contemplating the above climbs and making the wise decision to not bother, head for the main gorge. Once inside the gorge a huge buttress facing northwest and below a lookout dominates the east side of the entrance. This is split by a giant corner system. The following climbs are on the prow left of this corner and are gained by scrambling up to the bottom of the cliff and skirting around right as far as possible.

Faceless Enemies 30m 21

Brilliant and rewarding, following the corner crack/roof system up middle of buttress. Start directly below the corner and roofs, up the slab to move right into the corner. Follow this to the roof that is climbed on its left via committing moves, up to second roof that is also climbed on its left. Up to a ledge in corner. Belay. Mark Rewi, Sam Latz 08/06/98

Reptilian Humour 20m 11

The nice looking corner crack, starts to the right of the top of FE, near the 'smiling reptilian' rock. Sam Latz, Mark Rewi 08/06/98

The next climb is on the overhanging west wall of the gorge.

Pre-nuptial Adventures 72m 23

The rock and protection are better than they look, to get to the start traverse round the waterhole to 50m left of a large left leaning corner.

1. 25m 21 Up the poorly protected wall, left under a small overhang and then round it by very short corner to a loose blocky ledge. Steeply up left to small ledge below last overhang on the lower section of wall.
 2. 22m 23 Traverse 8m right then up the corner to a large sloping ledge. Up a steep and dubious looking band of rock to a vague left facing corner, follow this to small stance on the right.
 3. 25m 18 Traverse 15m left between major roofs, then up an easy wall.
- Roark Muhlen-Schulte, Simon Mentz (alt) 02/05/93

Good luck is needed to find this climb! The description given goes: "walk through to almost the end of the gorge, to about 200m short of where it narrows and a large pinnacle of rock, there should be a wall split by numerous cracks, and a wall to the left with three slabs."

Terrapin 70m 15 M1

This climb takes the crack between the second and third slabs, counting from the left and the descent is down the north side of the pinnacle.

1. 40m Climb the crack until a ledge appears on the left, piton runner. Up the overhanging crack, with a point of aid used to gain top then up easily to belay stance.
2. 30m Continue up crack until it is possible to traverse left just below the top to gain the edge, across and up easy rock to a stance.

John Griffiths, Keith Sedden 24/03/73

The following two climbs are at a very remote crag that is accessed by heading east along the Larapinta Trail from the Serpentine Gorge car park. From the car park walk along the trail for just over four kilometres to where a creek cuts through the ranges, leave the trail here and follow the creek north to gain access to the north side of the ranges. As you emerge on the other side of the ranges the crag is located on the left hand side. The crag cannot easily be seen from the creek, walk up the steep scrubby slope and the wall becomes apparent. The highest section is about 35 to 40m,

however the following two climbs are on a clean 20m high face that is left of the high section. Descents are via the gully to the left of the wall.

Krakatoa 20m 14

Straight up the striking crack on the right hand side of the cliff.

Garn Cooper, A Griffin 18/04/04

Crosswind 20m 17

Start 6m left of K at a scoop in the face, trend left through the steeper middle section and then easily to the top.

Garn Cooper, A Griffin 18/04/04

Section 14.6 - Serpentine Chalet

Serpentine Chalet is the site of a now demolished tourist homestead that offers easy access to level but stony bush camping sites. The area is a National Park, but there are no facilities. A 4WD will reduce the walking distance to the climbing spots by half, and also allow access to more remote camping areas. To get there continue past the Serpentine Gorge turn off for 6km and turn onto the dirt road that leads into the Serpentine Chalet area. If you have a 4WD, continue to the start of the walking track that leads to the dams, otherwise park in one of the parking areas and walk along the 2km 4WD track before starting the pleasant 2 to 3km stroll along the walking track towards the ranges.

Follow the walking trails that lead to the ranges and a set of dams, which once served as a water supply for the homestead, but have long since silted up. This is again a very remote spot and not many people venture here, so only experienced and well equipped climbers should consider climbing here. All of the climbs are beyond the second dam and as such access may be tricky. If the waterhole is dry then you can walk up the dams. It is more likely that there will be water and then you will have to scramble up to the left of the second dam and abseil into the gorge. H Jackson and Molly Garton did three bouldery climbs on 22/10/03 in the area immediately behind the second dam. They have been described as being 3m downstream of a tap on a pipe, one with a bouldery start on the west wall and two on the east wall. Those on the east wall follow a left diagonal (17) and a hanging corner (14). The following climbs are beyond the third dam on the east wall of the narrow chasm.

Argon 18m 18

Starting at distinct folds in the rock, this climb takes the right line with a steep start up a short crack. Up an easy slab passing two gargoyles to the top. Garn Cooper, H Jackson 19/10/03

Neon 18m 18

The left hand and better defined line, starting with a rising leftward traverse to a bulge at 5m. Surmount the bulge and continue up a glorious overhang finishing just right of the arête. Garn Cooper, Dave Koskuba 19/10/03

Krypton 20m 3

Start 30m upstream from the last two routes. The left slanting diagonal chimney with a ghost gum halfway up. Garn Cooper, Dave Koskuba 19/10/03

It is a fair trek to get to the next four climbs, and the location is very remote. The Larapinta Trail crosses the path that leads to the Serpentine Chalet dam site, take path that heads west towards Inarlanga Pass, which will be reached in approximately one and a half hours on top of what you have already walked. The routes are located on the right end of the south facing crag immediately north of this pass. The descents may be problematic and after the first ascents several of them were made using trees, this is not advised and sacrificial slings should be taken and used where possible.

Frog 60m 14

A great second pitch, this climb ascends the sinuous left facing corner that has a black rippling wall on the left and smooth orange wall on the right.

1. 20m Scramble up to the base of the corner.
2. 40m Up the terrific corner.

A Bown, Garn Cooper 25/10/03

Tadpole 60m 12

This climb goes up the two corners right of F, with a bushy vine at half height.

1. 45m Start at the clean corner, moving left several times to pass the vegetation.
2. 15m Easily to the top.

Garn Cooper, A Bown 26/10/03

Sweep 25m 17

This climb is located in a big gully approximately 75m left of T. Scramble up the gulley and look for the beautiful right facing corner, which sweeps in a wave from a slabby start to an overhanging finish. Garn Cooper, A Bown 26/10/03

Transverse Mercator 30m 16

A further 125m left of the main gully is a striking set of lines high up on the cliff. Climb the right facing corner, continue up to a rightward traverse under a roof. Pull through the roof to easier ground. Garn Cooper, A Bown 26/10/03

Section 14.7 - Ormiston Gorge

The next three crags are in Ormiston Gorge National Park, located 29km further west of Serpentine Gorge with an 8km sealed road leading to the main car park. The rangers here have been accepting of climbing but only in specific areas. When visiting Ormiston Bluff please call the rangers on 08 8956 7799, this is just a courtesy call and will help to maintain the good relationship that currently exists.

Tijlka Crag

As you drive into Ormiston Gorge, just before the first river crossing there is an imposing steep limestone cliff on the west side of the riverbed, approximately 200m from the road. This crag is a registered sacred site and has important cultural significance. The fact that one climb was bolted here was bad enough, but then in late 2001 a second climb was bolted, severely jeopardising the rest of the excellent climbing available in this area. Do not climb on this crag and stay away from it, the routes are not in the index of this guide and have no descriptions, their names have been included so people who have found out about them from other sources will know not to climb them.

Tjilka 30m 26

Simon Mentz, Roark Muhlen-Schulte 06/92

Areyonga (Permit Only) 13m 24

Goshen Watts 10/01

Ormiston Bluff

On the way into Ormiston Gorge there is a cattle grid, just after this the road is split in two by a large Red River Gum tree. Several hundred meters past this tree, Ormiston Bluff, a distinct 25m high orange bluff, can be easily identified on the east side of the riverbed. Parking is available on the left side of the road below a rocky wall. When climbing here please remember to phone the rangers (08 8956 7799) in advance to let them know you are intending to climb, and make sure that when you park you do not obstruct the road, it is heavily used by tourists and buses. The climbs are described from left to right looking at the crag, Inner Peace is the big left facing corner recessed from the riverbed and a good place from which to locate other climbs.

The crag sports a great variety of routes in a relatively small area, the lines on the main face to the left and those immediately right of Inner Peace offer sustained climbing with good rock and protection. However, the tops of some of these climbs can be a bit loose and unnerving! This is probably the most developed crag in Central Australia and as such has a number of harder bolted lines with many of the climbs having the luxury of lower-off chains, something of a rarity in the region. The bolts on this crag were placed some years before the first recorded ascents and earlier unrecorded ascents are therefore likely, see Section 2.

Eat My Shorts 13m 8

Left trending gully behind a huge, dead tree with a small gum on the left at three quarters height, belay as for LT at the large ledge. Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane (both solo) 23/07/95

Liquid Television 14m 10

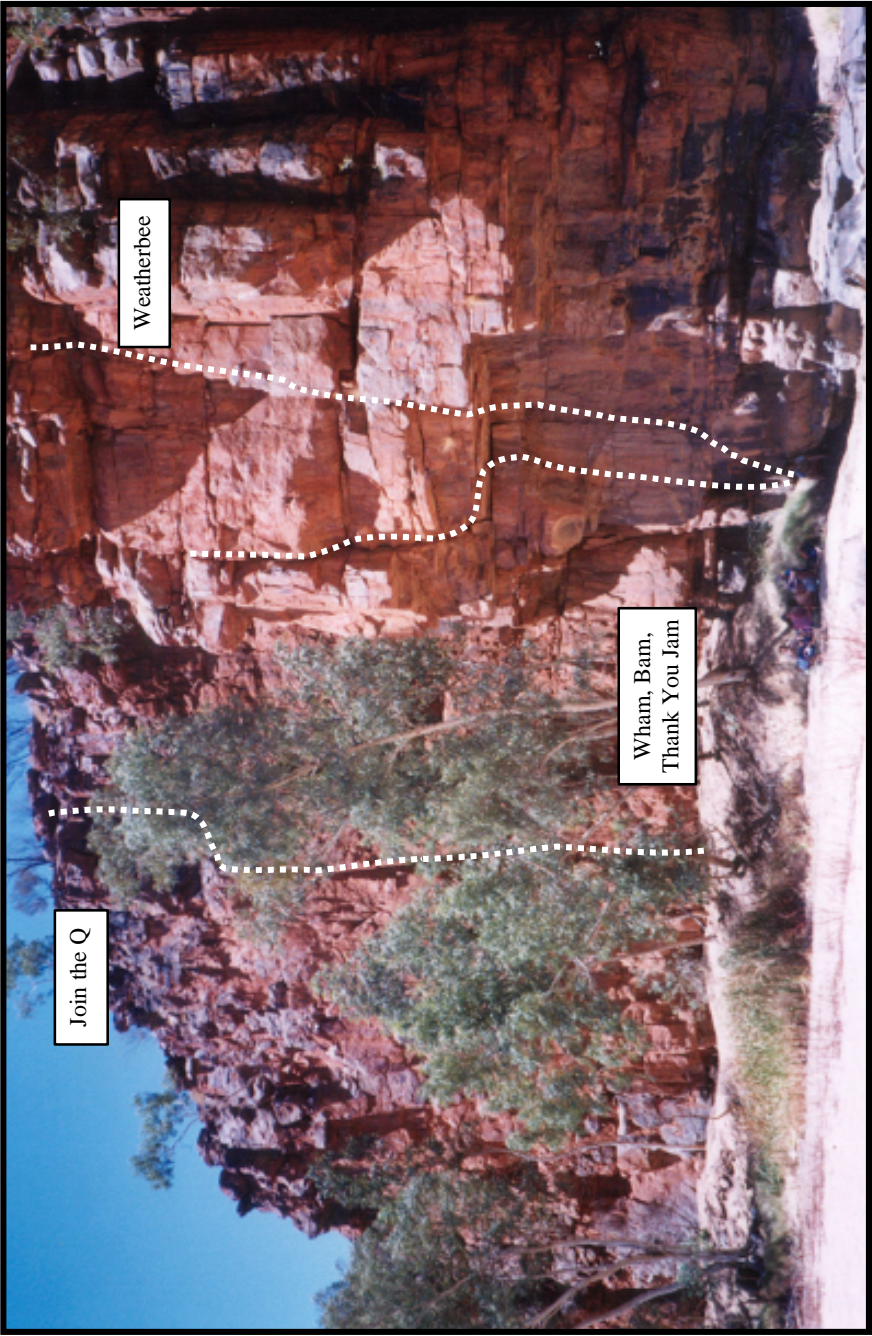
A good beginners climb with an exciting finish. Climb the slabby face 2m right of EMS then exit by fun moves onto the ledge above, belay at the chain on the wall to the right. Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton 23/07/95

My Life In Jazz 23m 17

Exposed moves that keep coming, takes the middle of the slab that SM avoids. Follow SM to where it moves right then step left and up the committing slab to directly below large pointed roof, climb this on its left side and don't escape the roof by heading off left. Mark Rewi, Brian Burford, Ali Trebileo 02/05/98

Spiritual Man 23m 16

A fun line up the slab 4m right of LT, step right to the corner and follow this to the overhang. Belay above or traverse down right to the chains on EC. Steve Thornton, Goshen Watts 17/03/96



Ormiston Gorge - Ormiston Bluff

Eat Carpet 17m 15

An enjoyable line and worth doing. A juggy start up the steep corner with some loose block on the left, BR on your right, Follow cracks through the bulge (there used to be a PR here, without it getting over the bulge takes commitment and nerve) and then continue up the steepening corner past three more BRs to a chain belay. Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton 23/07/95

Chops 20m 18

Poor protection at the start but the top overhang is better than it looks. Starts as for OF then follows the left leaning corner crack to a roof on the left, surmount the roof and continue up the big corner. Belay above this or traverse down right to the chains on OF. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 26/01/96

Alison 18m 18

Great fun and exciting at the end, follow OF to the first BR. Don't clip this but step left and then up the corner and continue to and past the roof to belay as for OF. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 27/01/96

Old Favourite 18m 22

Great positions with hard, thought provoking moves in the upper sections. From gumtree 5m right of EC climb past two small ledges, clip the BR and continue up the steep scoop to the FH. Balance up and right staying close to the arête and passing a BR and FH, be careful of the loose blocks just below the top, belay at the chain. Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton 29/04/95

No Permit Required 18m 14

Although fun, if you don't like sparsely protected climbs this is not for you! The thin seam in the middle of the slab 2m right of OF, this climb is thin and small wires and RPs are needed, belay at the chain. Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane, Libby Evans 23/07/95

Step Right Up 20m 20

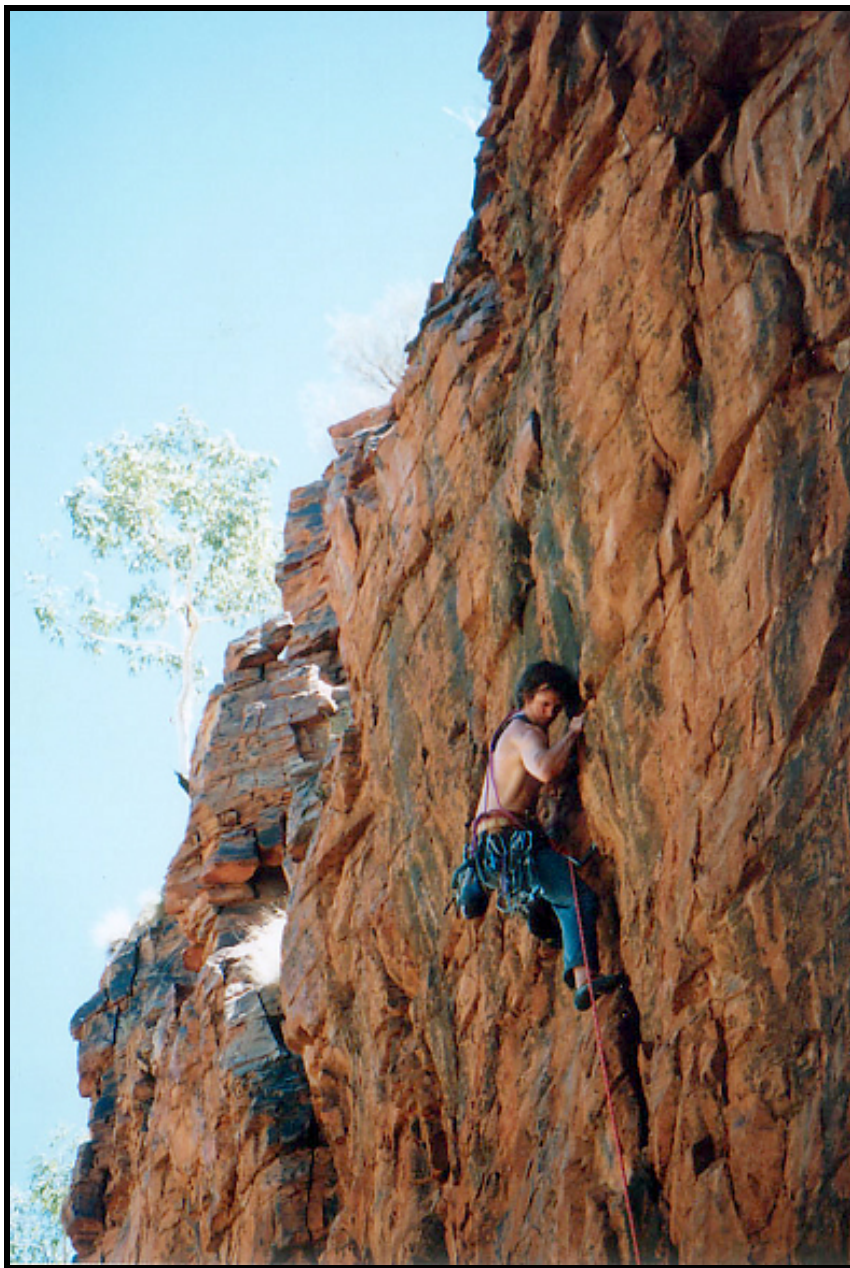
A good climb that is delicate at the bottom and pumpy at the top with one scary clip. Slabby corner 4m right of NPR up the corner past two BRs to the large ledge, step right onto face and then keep going up past three BRs to easier ground up the short corner to a ledge with a chain. Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton 29/04/95

Fourth Time Lucky 20m 20

A contrived line with some hard moves, starting 1m right of SRU move up and right through the juggy overlaps to a BR. Climb the slab on its right past a BR and then hand traverse back left to a shallow corner on the arête, clip the FH and make hard moves up the corner, continue on easy ground past another BR to the chain. Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane 23/07/95

Fourth Time Lucky Variant 20m 17

A much more consistent climb, as for FTL but at the hand traverse, continue on a direct line up the crack from here as for FTL to the chain.



Dr Dave Shepherd on Tranquility - 17

Ant Carrots 23m 15

Interesting and sustained, the first of the cracks that ascend the main face 3m right of FTL. Up the crack passing an exposed overhang low down, take care at the top where loose rock awaits. Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane 23/07/95

Buy Locally 23m 18

A lovely face climb, start as for AC to below the overhang from this ledge up and right to below the clean face, up past the BR and FH then run it out to the chain. Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton 23/07/95

The Vibraphone 22m 17

Another great sustained line, starts 3m right of BL up the next prominent crack system. Follow the cracks past a musical rock at half height. Simon Mentz, Roark Muhlen-Schulte 06/92

Join the Q 18m 16

A nice climb 2m right of TV and following a shallow right facing corner that thins out near the top. Climb to and continue up the wonderful right facing corner, when the corner runs out undercling right for 1m to a crack that is followed to the top. Glenn Tempest, Rhyl Shaw, Libby Evans, Michael Hampton, John Dickson 29/04/95

Just Adobe (No Ryobi!) 18m 18

A few meters right of J7Q climb the wall and crack, it has lots of loose rock and the gum tree immediately in front of the crag makes it hard to access. Mantle into shallow cave, exit left and then step back right into the crack. Michael Hampton, John Dickson, Libby Evans, Rhyl Shaw, Glen Tempest 29/04/95

Tranquility 18m 17

Brilliant, a must do at this crag! Described as a top rope climb for three years before it was finally led, providing a great line with exposure, holds and protection worthy of many repeats. Climb the face 2m right of JANR to reach the left trending crack, which is followed with great pleasure. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebileo 23/05/98

Oedipus Shmoedipus 20m 19

Great face climbing with an exciting overhanging finish, again a long standing top rope problem, which stood for five years before it was led. A good large cam low down but only two micro wire placements above that, which were fortunately not tested with a fall, protected the face below the large flake. Whilst the climbing is never that hard, the lack of good protection makes this a serious lead with ground fall potential until the flake is reached. Starting 4m right of JANR making a rightward trending line up the face to reach the flake and better protection, from here up and left through the overhang. Krish Seewraj, Dr Dave Shepherd 10/02/01

Inner Peace 25m 14

Surprisingly worthwhile, depending on what sort of mind set you are in! The horrid looking major left facing corner provides nice technical bridging on good rock. Mark Rewi, Julie Smith, Ali Trebileo 23/05/98

No Cam Do 25m 13

A good beginners climb starting easily and with an exposed safe finish. Start up the ledges 3m right of IP, continue via the cracks in the face. Steve Thornton, Alison Garrett 15/08/95

Sickle 25m 16

A solid line up the jamming crack 2m right of NCD. Up the crack for 5m and through an overhang, continue more easily above up the crack, traversing right under the high roof before continuing up. Damion Auton, Kieran Culhane 29/04/95

Rock Shot 18m 20

An imposing face providing great climbing in an exposed position, start as for S but above the overhang step out right and climb the face past one FH and two BRs to belay at the chain. Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane 29/04/95

Rock Shot Direct Start 18 m 24

A bold lead, but a classic way to start RS. Climb the left leaning corner to the roof, traverse right under this to a large undercling, from here a pumpy traverse to the lip of the roof and then continue up the face of RS. Malcolm Matheson, Kieran Culhane, Damian Auton, Paul Deacon, Chris Peisker 26/09/96

If You Don't Mind Umpire! 20 m 22

A wandering climb that requires double ropes and is a bit contrived, placing protection on sight would make this a tricky climb. Follow WBTYJ for 5m to thin horizontal cracks, step left to climb the left side of a big block until you can stand on it. Hand traverse left along the lip of the main overhang until you can pull up past an awkward rest to a large scooped face below the final overhang. Clip the last BR on RS, then back right for independent finish just right of the chain. Ronnie Sammut, Simon Mentz 28/09/96

Wham, Bam, Thank You Jam 20 m 18

A wicked jam crack. Start 8m right of S just right of the main crack in the front face of the buttress. Climb the short wall following a seam, step left at the overhang and continue up the crack. Glenn Tempest, Michael Hampton, Damion Auton, Kieran Culhane 29/04/95

Weatherbee 22m 21

A wild line breaching the widest point of the main roof. Start as for WBTYJ to the overhang, then swing up and right out to the flake at lip. Once over the lip continue up the thin seam climbing the top roof at a grey block. The first ascent avoided the corner crack to the right, which makes for excellent slab climbing but is contrived. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton 28/09/96

The Immortifier 22m 22

A pumpy climb on lead, making it hard to place protection. Step left off the block 3m right of WBTYJ and climb the thin cracks to the roofs, up to ledges/easy cracks and then through top overhang to belay. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton, Steve Thornton 03/02/96

The Nose 18m 24

Start 1m right of TI. Move left of a block into slippery cracks and continue through the overhang to a rest. Good moves now lead straight up nose with small wire placements on the left side of the

nose, the gear was pre-placed on the first ascent but it has been led without since. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton, Glen Tempest 29/09/96

Short 'n' Sharp 8m 19

The corner 2m right of the first tree right of the main buttress, follow this to a small roof. Round this on the left then up to ledge. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 24/02/96

True Story 20m 18

A right leaning crack behind the tallest ghost gum on the right side of the cliff, start up the small unprotectable face to large ledge then follow the thin seam past three rectangular blocks and continue through the roof. Steve Thornton, Eryne Hali 09/06/96

Peanuts 10m 14

The crack 4m right of SNS, up this and then through the roof via the off-width. Steve Thornton, Eryne Hali 09/06/96

Ooga Booga 8m 15

Slightly right leaning crack 2m right of P to a small ledge. Eryne Hali, Steve Thornton 09/06/96

Boom Boom 10m 15

Overhanging crack 3m left of AC, climb the crack to a ledge then more easily up the white face. Steve Thornton, Goshen Watts 17/03/96

Astro Chicken 10m 20

The main line on small buttress 50m right of the main cliff. Climb the glassy overhang (watch out for the loose block), then up to a stance, up the right curving crack to a cave, then over roof to mantle. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 17/03/96

Old Man's Boots 6m 11

Cracks 5m right of AC to finish just right of the cave/roof. Goshen Watts (solo) 10/03/96

Old Man's Hat 6m 17

Left leaning crack 1m right of OMB to a ledge. Steve Thornton, Goshen Watts 24/02/96

Possi 5m 16

Overhanging crack directly behind a ghost gum 1m right of OMH. Steve Thornton, Eryne Hali 09/06/96

Breathe Easy 8m 11

A fist crack 1m right of P, then right to a juggy face. Steve Thornton, Eryne Hali 09/06/96

Audacious 6m 15

Thin seam in the overhanging face 3m right of BE to jugs. Steve Thornton, Eryne Hali 09/06/96

Bushfire 8m 8

The jugs 2m right of A to a ledge, then the crack through a terraced face. Eryne Hali, Steve Thornton 09/06/96

If the Shoe Fits 8m 15

Start up B, then left through an overhang. Eryne Hali, Steve Thornton 09/06/96

Crunchy Steak 8m 8

Right leaning flared crack 2m right of B to a juggy face, then up to belay stance. Eryne Hali, Steve Thornton 09/06/96

Ormiston Gorge

The main gorge is a short walk from the main car park. When originally climbed it is said that permission was given by the rangers, however since then climbing has not been allowed inside the main gorge. These climbs have been included for historical reasons and should not be climbed.

Daddy Long-legs 22 m 23

Scary. Walk to where the 'Ghost Gum Walk' joins the gorge. Directly opposite and on the east face of the gorge is a polished face. Climb the weakness to a ledge, then the right facing corner to the left arête. Stretch those legs and traverse right to a left leading crack. Damian Auton, Kieran Culhane, Glen Tempest 07/05/95

Soap 'n' Sleazin' 20 m 22

Boulder to left tending crack 6m right of DLL, up this and then share the last 6m with DLL. Glen Tempest, Michael Hampton 07/05/95

Section 14.8 - Glen Helen Gorge

Glenn Helen is located at the end of the sealed road only a few kilometres past the Ormiston turn off. It has a permanent waterhole that is a refuge for migrating birds, and over heating tourists. The area is a National Park and is managed by the rangers at Ormiston Gorge, who have previously stated that climbing is allowed in this area. Whilst there are climbs on the north facing cliffs they have requested that climbers stick to the south facing walls at the back of the gorge. The homestead is, however, run by the same management that operate a back packer's in Alice Springs and is not part of the National Park.

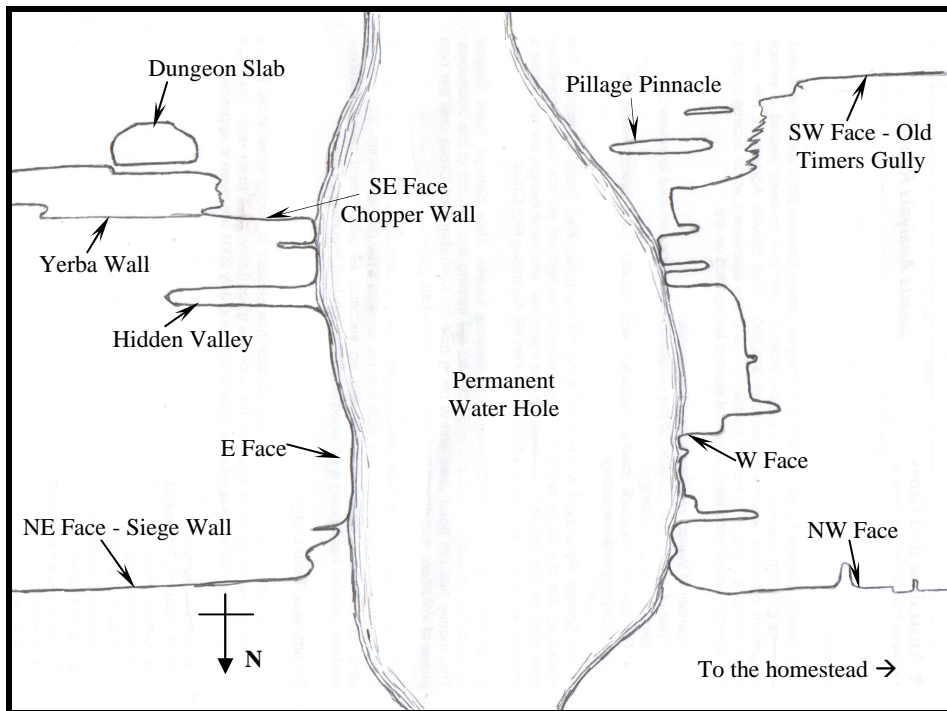
There are many faces and gullies here, see the topo below. Note that some of the walls were originally given inappropriate names and these have been changed. No apologies are offered to those who felt it necessary to use distasteful names.

North West Face

This face is located on the north face of the range to the west of the waterhole, with an easy approach from the homestead and a descent via the right trending ramp. The rock is generally good but care should be taken as this rock is exposed to the full fury of the sun. Climbs are described from left to right.

Scorpion 22m 8

Up the chimney 40m right of the waterhole, straight up past a chockstone to finish. John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 08/07/73



Topo of Glen Helen
(not to scale)

Stitching Time 22m 19

A great steep and sustained line that meanders up the chocolate mudcake wall immediately left of S. Start at a small corner 6m right of S and make a rising left traverse to a cavelet at 8m. From here, traverse up and right for 3m then follow vertical cracks before trending back left to a second cavelet. Exit on the right or left taking a rising left line via cracks to the top. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald 17/06/02

Northern Exposure 15m 21

Look west and high up from the waterhole and you will see a smooth face with two prominent vertical cracks. It is a bit of a scramble to reach the face, but it is worth the effort, this climb takes the left hand crack and was originally graded 17. Great technical finger to fist jamming all the way to the top. Glen Tempest, Michael Hampton 02/05/95

Jam Spankin' 15m 22

The crack a few meters right of NE gives similar excellent climbing, only marred by some loose rock at the very top. Dave Musgrove 06/00

North East Face - Siege Wall

This face is located on the north face of the range to the east of the waterhole and again gets plenty of sun. When walking to the gorge from the homestead keep on the left side of the water, descents are by walking left to the shortest part of the range and scrambling down, taking care of the loose rock. Climbs are described from right to left.

Birkenstone Chimney 30m 8

The prominent chimney just left of the waterhole. Traverse diagonally right and up to gain the top of the cliff. Paul Deacon (solo) 30/06/96

Slabia Minge Nora 50m 17

Start in the middle of slab just left of BC.

1. 25m Up the slab with minimal protection move right at the bulge to join BC.
 2. 25m Follow the chimney for 5m then right up the hanging slab to a nose, continue past blocks.
- Bruce Cameron, Lincoln Hall (alt) 16/11/96

Fester and Chester Retire to the Bar 40m 18

The prominent crack behind the first large ghost gum 15m left of the waterhole, better when done in one pitch.

1. Up the smooth slabby wall for 3m to a curved crack, which is followed to a block then step right and up to small stance above a small cave and just below another large bulge.
 2. Back left and up into the main crack line, at a good ledge follow the crack diagonally right.
- Kieran Culhane, Michael Hampton (alt) 30/09/96

Euro-dice 40m 19

The best climb on this face. Starting 5m left of FACRTTB and best done in one pitch.

1. Up the right trending crack to a ledge, follow the corner to another ledge.
2. Up the chimney and then the left trending crack to an exciting finish.

Damian Auton, Goshen Watts (alt) Glen Tempest 30/09/96

Freak Street 40m 22

Technically this route is closer to grade 20 but sections of dubious rock and the runout nature of the climbing make this a trying lead. Follow the right trending weakness 7m left of ED, staying just left of the crack to avoid the worst rock until good rock and protection appear. Step right then up to a rest just below loose blocks, an easy exit up a poorly protected wall. Simon Mentz, Ronnie Sammut 30/09/96

Unnamed 40m 20

Up the crack 4m left of FS to a shallow cave just left of white choss, past the bulge and then another crack. Malcolm Matheson, Kirsty Hamilton 30/09/96

West Face

This face is located on the west side of the waterhole and is accessed by a boulder problem round the west side of the waterhole, alternatively take a dingy to float your gear round because if you fall off the traverse's bouldery start the water is deep, cold and hard to get out of. In the middle of the face is a 10m wide recess of easy rock with a wide chimney at its northern end. GST Included is the

long corner a few metres right of the chimney with a scramble descent down the gully to the left of the chimney. The climbs are described from right to left.

Hot Dog 20m 16

Start 4m right of GI and follow the left trending ramp to the mini corner, head up to the exciting bulgy overhang, through this and then follow your nose to the top. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 02/09/00

GST Included 35m 11

Add 10% to your normal rack for this one, the long left facing corner offers sustained climbing at the grade and plenty of gear opportunities. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 02/09/00

Tucker Time 18m 19

Start at a slender sapling in a stepped corner approximately 7m left of GST, up the corner to move right below a roof. Continue up a short corner then straight up to a bottomless hand crack and easily thereafter. Garn Cooper, Anders Bown 26/09/03

Oblate Spheroid 17 30m

Starting 7m right of BOB at a bouldery start with polished holds this could be difficult to locate. After the bouldery start climb up for up 8m, then traverse right round the arête to between two roofs. Follow a rising traverse for 5m to the right end of the second roof. Move up a dubious wall until the climbing eases. Anders Bown, Garn Cooper 26/09/03

Bomb Over Benghazi 30m 17

Start in the middle of the wall to the right of the wide recess. Start up an overhanging crack between two figs. A bouldery start is followed by a walk up a ramp, then a second bouldery problem before a second a walk up a second ramp. From here ascend two corners passing a roof on its left at the top. Garn Cooper, Anders Bown, Dave Koskuba 22/09/03

Tripoli 30m 15

High up at the left end of the wall with BOB is a 2m roof with a chimney on its left. Starting below this feature walk up a ramp before climbing a corner that is followed past a horizontal break and two roofs. Garn Cooper, Anders Bown, Dave Koskuba 22/09/03

After the initial boulder around the western side of the water hole, walk about 30m past several narrow buttresses until you reach the last 15-20m high rib close to the waterhole. This was named Pillage Pinnacle, due to the tactics of the first ascentonists.

Flash and Burn 10m 15

The grade was increased due to placing protection, which adds to the pump value. On the north face of the pinnacle climb the corner 2m right of the left hand edge to the slightly left trending diagonal, head right at the top to avoid the loose blocks. Sam Latz, Paul O'Reilly 02/07/99

Shaken Not Stirred 11m 13

Some nice moves are marred by the escapability and a loose finish, takes the vague crack at the right end of the south face of the pinnacle. Up to the ledge, then follow the nice but avoidable finger to hand jamming crack on the end of the pinnacle up to loose lego-land blocks. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 03/09/00



Warwick Beever belayed by Karl Godden on Esmerelda's Blue Rinse - 14

Rape and Pillage 11m 11

Worthwhile for the grade, climb the right trending diagonal on the south face of the pinnacle. Matt Gilmore, Rob Rymill, Sam Latz 02/07/99

South West Face - Old Timers Gully

This face is the south facing wall in the main gully located on the south side of the range to the west of the waterhole. Climbs are described from right to left with the first two being located on the first wall as you walk up the gully. For a number of these routes, protection can be tricky to find and hard to place. RPs and mirco wires are recommended to reduce run-outs.

Nanny Nap 12m 10

Hard to identify and not worth the effort. Starts 2m right of a fig tree in the middle of the lowest wall, take the line straight up past a mini-ledge to the top. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 03/09/00

Attack of the Zimmer Frames 11m 12

In middle of lower wall, 3m left of the highest point. Start from a ledge and climb through a shallow inset, take care placing protection RP's are needed for the crux. Sam Latz, Paul Cooke 18/07/99

Safety Sam 7m 18

The thin seam/crack in the middle of the steep slab above and set back from lower wall, accessed via scrambling up a ramp at the left end of the of lower wall. Protection is difficult to place and sketchy. Sharp rocks waiting for the fall add to the challenge. Paul Cooke, Sam Latz 08/99

Unnamed 7m 21

A top rope problem due to the lack of protection up the steep slab/face 1.5m left of SS. Sam Latz 08/99

The next three climbs are located on the second wall, which has a dark texture.

Nomadic Greys 15m 14

Consistent climbing. Takes the cracks and face 4m left of the right hand end of the wall, run-out in the upper sections with a possible ground fall. Iain Paterson, Matt Gilmore 03/07/99

Esmerelda's Blue Rinse 15m 14

Very pleasant, well protected fun and sustained climbing, starting 3m left of NG just right of a small detached block head up the slightly right trending crack in the centre of the dark face. Matt Gilmore, Sam Latz 03/07/99

Sesquicentenary 14m 12

Starts 8m left of EBR up from a blocky pillar below highest point of the face, follow the crack system straight up. Dan Ewald, Tracy Power 08/99

At the left end of the second wall is Wheelchair Access Ramp (WAR), this rises to the right providing a descent route for climbs on the second wall.

Annoying Teenage Antics 8m 17

Short but nice moves, this climb starts below WAR up the orange face. Follow a thin seam for 5m then step right and climb the crack through the bulge, don't sneak right at the top. Matt Gilmore, Paul O'Reily 06/07/99

Scrabble with Dora 17m 19/20

Start from WAR in middle of the third wall, climb through the committing bulge with complex cracks and a good no. 8 hex placement up high, eases to a nice but escapable face. Sam Latz, Rob Rymill 03/07/99

When I Was A Lad 16m 16

Fun! Starts 4m left of SWD and climbs through three closely spaced cavelets in the bottom 3m. From here, step up and right and follow the weakness more or less straight up to easier ground with a run-out finish. Sam latz, Steve Greig 03/09/00

Lessons in Lace 11m 17

Better protection than it looks, RP's are needed. Start 2m left of WIWAL up the black face, a bouldery start to gain a crack and seam, exit right. Iain Paterson, Paul O' Reily, Matt Gilmore 06/07/99

Incontinence 16m 11

The major right facing corner at the left end of the third wall, 15m left of WAR. Rob Rymill, Iain Paterson 03/07/99

Secret Training Camp 16m 17

The left face of the corner, up the face and cracks to a steep finish. Protection in the upper sections was placed around the arête on the first ascent. Claire Helm, Krish Seewraj 08/12/02

Coronary Condition 18m 18

The line at the right hand end of the fourth wall, just around from STC. Up the crack on the right of the face, after a hard start climb the crack directly to blocks and continue on through. Paul O'Reily, Rob Rymill, Sam Latz 03/07/99

Left Anterior Descending 16 12m

Up the fine line 2m left of CC, starts hard but gets easier. Garn Cooper, Dave Koskuba 26/09/03

East Face

This face is on the east side of the waterhole, the climbs are located at northern end and can be accessed by traversing along the waters edge or by floating along in a dingy. The wall looks chossy and horrid and the lines are both hard to identify and generally move wonders. The descent is as for Siege Wall. Climbs are described from left to right.

The Furnace 27m 23

First climbed in 42 degrees. Start 3m in from the left end of the face at a prominent roof-crack.

1. 17m Up the crack, then left through the roof followed by easier ground to a belay stance.
2. 10m Easily up.

Mark Baker, Gilbert Meunier (alt) 16/11/96

Ho Chi Minge City 30m 20

Start 5m right of TF just right of tiny bay. Up a small arête then move left and up the wall to flakes, steeply up the flakes to and through a bulge with loose rock, belay in a recess before scrambling up. Kieran Culhane, Eryne Hali 16/11/96

Dingo Dogs 20m 17

The thin crack splitting a red wall 4m right of HCMC, then left to the right facing corner. Robert McMahon, Mark Baker, Bruce Cameron, Chris Jackson, Gilbert Meunier 15/11/96

Desert Storm 20m 18

Follows the flakes on a polished wall 3m right of DD, passing narrow diagonal slot up high. Gilbert Meunier, Mark Baker, Chris Jackson, Robert McMahon 15/11/96

No Whinge About the Minge 25m 19

Start 2m right of DS below a refrigerator sized block at a bulge, up the wall and then over the bulge continuing up the wall and crack above. Bruce Cameron, Robert McMahon 15/11/96

Tinge of the Minge 25m 18

Up the prominent square chimney with a roof, 4m right of NWATM, then the crack. Bruce Cameron, Chris Jackson, Robert McMahon 15/11/96

Bats Over Botswana 25m 19

The left line in the open square gully 6m right of TOTM, from the main recess climb cracks to the roof crack which is tackled direct. Mark Baker, Gilbert Meunier 15/11/96

Too Hot to Trot 28m 17

Start 7m right of BOB below a small fig tree, up the polished rock to a fig tree over the bulge and then up the cracks and wall to the top. Lincoln Hall, Bruce Cameron 16/11/96

South East Face

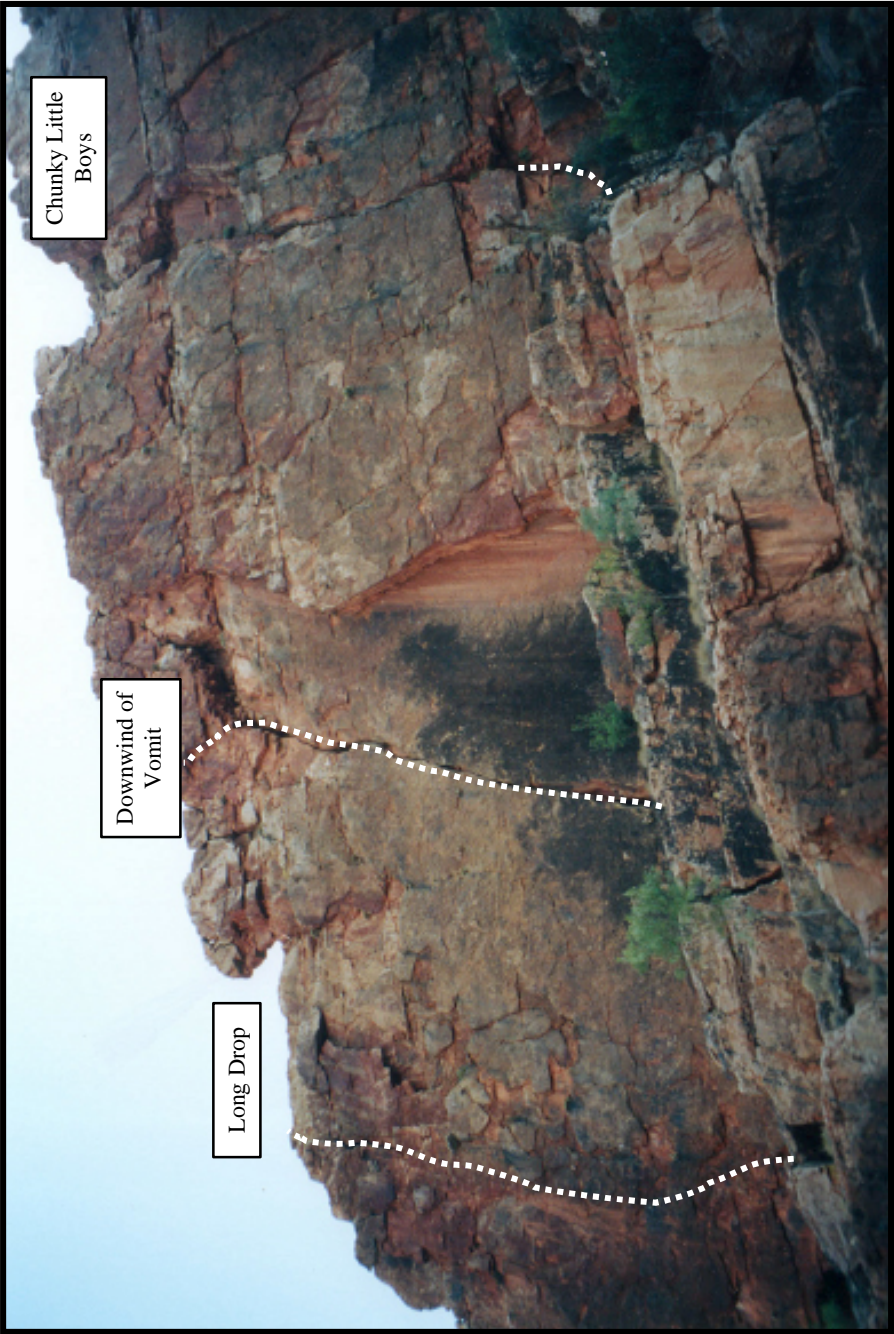
These faces are located on the south side of the range, east of the waterhole. Access is gained by bouldering around the west side of the waterhole and walking south to where it is possible to cross the water, before wandering back north. Chopper Wall is the narrow face immediately right of the waterhole. Due to poor records Blue Thunder had been climbed by three groups over ten years each thinking they had made a first ascent. The descent is either down Hidden Gully and a swim or a traverse right to the big ledge below Yerba Wall. If you choose the second it is advisable to do this as a lead staying tied in and placing protection.

Apocalypse Now 20m 18

Fine finger crack left of the flake high above, escape left below the roof to a ledge. Andrei Cleland, Andrew Drenen 09/07/91

Blue Thunder 25m 16

A nice climb up the crack 7m right of waters edge, follow the crack and prominent v-shaped chimney above. Andrew Drenen, Andrei Cleland 10/07/91



Glen Helen Gorge - Yerba Wall

Hidden Valley is the deep gully behind Chopper Wall. Access to it is either by climbing one of the routes on Chopper Wall and scrambling down or making a tricky traverse at the waters edge and scrambling up to the gully. The south facing wall high up in the gully is called Pituri Wall and hosts the following climbs. The best point of reference for locating them is the large hanging bush high up on the wall, don't look too far left where there is clean hanging corner that is yet to be ascended. The terribly named climbs are described from left to right.

Golden Shower 22m 23

Nice climbing up the face immediately left of the hanging bush, avoid the loose blocks then step left at 4m and up the face. Andrew Drenen, Andrei Cleland 10/07/91

Bridge Over Troubled Piss 20m 16

Up the right trending line 1m right of GS, past loose blocks to large hanging bush and up the arête on the left. Andrei Cleland, Andrew Drenen 10/07/91

Don't Piss in My Waterhole 22m 21

Up the left leading finger crack from a small roof 10m right of BOTP, after a rest continue up the face and finish right. Andrew Drenen, Andrei Cleland 10/07/91

To the right of Chopper Wall and a little way up the gully is a huge detached flake called Dungeon Slab, which has numerous fun low grade lines all unprotected. The following climb is at the eastern end of this flake and starts up the steep but short corner.

So Good to be Sober 25m 14

A hard start up the steep left facing corner, from the ledge above climb the face, which is a run out in places, with an exciting finish to the large ledge below Yerba Wall. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton 17/10/96

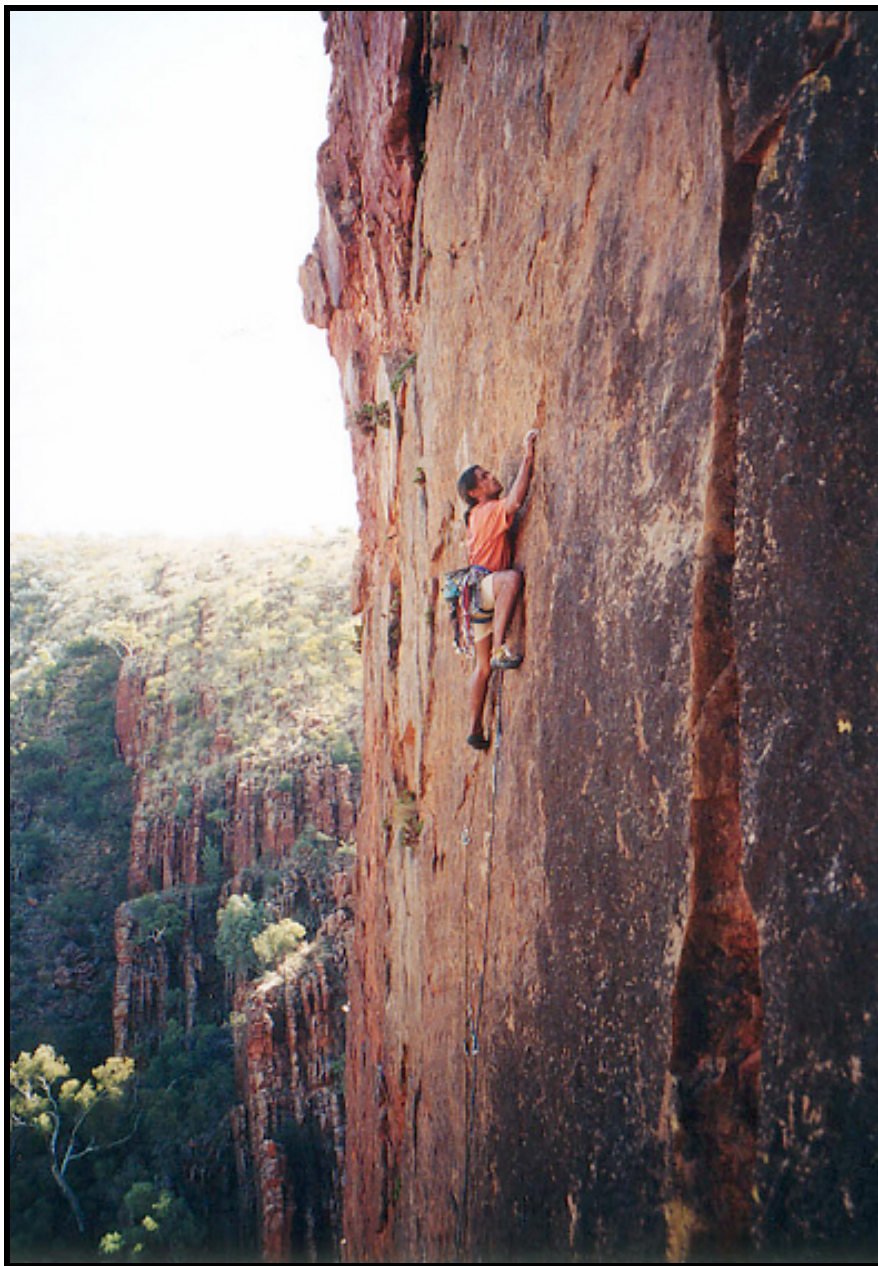
Eggs and Bacon Buffy 25m 11

Climb the face 1m right of SGTBS. Up ramp to a wide crack and ledge, traverse 1m right to finish up a finger crack. Allison Garrett, Dan Hasson 03/07/97

Yerba Wall is directly above the ledge gained by climbing SGTBS, it can also be reached by walking up the gully from Dungeon Slab until it is possible to traverse back left onto the ledge. This wall has some of the best rock in the area, climbs are described from left to right.

Long Drop 25m 17

Start approx 6m right from the end of the ledge this fun climb gets progressively harder with an airy and exciting finish. Take RPs to protect the mid section or risk a ground fall from two-thirds height. Climb the face heading for the orange scoop at two-thirds height, from here launch up the steepening wall and break through the hanging crack above to belay on an exposed large hanging block. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres, Pat Spiers 04/05/02



Krish Seewraj on the first ascent of Avoiding a Greek Wedding - 23

Confident Minty Freshness 25m 17

Starting 2m right of LD up the blank looking face that yields another fun line with good moves, start directly below the huge hanging flake that leans out ominously at the top of the wall. Straight up the face and cracks trending slightly right to finish up the face right of the flake. A bold start with thin positive holds and sparse but adequate protection for the first 5m, followed by easier ground the further up you get. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 04/05/02

Avoiding a Greek Wedding 25m 23

Brilliant, with great positions, good but occasionally hard to place protection and a couple of moves of faith, this is a compelling climb. Starting below a thin seam 2m right of CMF, climb the seam until it is possible to make a rightward traverse for a few meters. Follow another thin seam above avoiding the loose dinner plate on the right. From the ledge easier climbing up the left facing corner. Krish Seewraj, Pat Spiers, Jason Geres 04/05/02

Downwind of Vomit 30m 18

A beautiful hand crack right of AAGW that is easily identified from the water's edge. Great finger/hand jamming to the roof then traverse diagonally right under this to a crack. Kieran Culhane, Annette Boelman, Steve Thornton 13/10/96

Hangover 30m 19

Massive imposing flake right of DOV, follow the pumpy crack to the same belay as DOV. Be warned this climb has sent some good climbers flying. Goshen Watts, Eryne Hali 13/10/96

Everything's Yerba, I Don't Think So 30m 16

A fun line that starts 6m right of H and climbs the left leaning line, when it ends head directly up face. Damian Auton, Goshen Watts 17/10/96

Hot, Wet Canadian 25m 21

The thin crack 2m right of EYIDTS and just before a small gully. Thin protection but brilliant moves up the face and cracks, be careful of a big loose flake near top. From the ledge below the top, traverse right to join and continue up CLB. Kieran Culhane, Annette Boelman 13/10/96

Chunky Little Boys 26m 16

The crack 2m right of HWC with bombproof protection and starting from small cave just right of the gully. Eryne Hali, Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 13/10/96

Yerba Flake 30m 17

Nice climbing on a thin corner flake near the right hand end of the main face, up to the overlap that is climbed on it's left then directly up the face. Damian Auton, Goshen Watts 17/10/96

Earthly Pleasures 26m 17

The crack 2m right of YF, over the bulge and then up to a ledge on the left to follow YF. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton 17/10/96

There are four big detached flakes to the right of Yerba Wall, the next two climbs are on the first of these.

Yerba Doddle 16m 15

Start 4m right of the left hand arête up the main crack in the middle of the face, veer left after 2m over the rooflet and continue via the big crack. Damian Auton, Goshen Watts 17/10/96

Push Th' Little Daisies 16m 20

On the black face right of YD is a brilliant climb up a thin curving crack, a good range of nuts is handy. Climb straight up the initial crack 2m right of YD before heading right up the thin curving crack. The last move is the crux and don't pull out the flowers. Goshen Watts, Damian Auton 17/10/96

Come Back to the Light 15m 17

Starting 5m left of YD climb to the first main diagonal with an overlap, traverse right along a huge flake until a vertical crack is reached. Ascend this until it is possible to traverse back left to the arête, continue straight up. Garn Cooper, Sean Martin, Dave Koskuba, Natasha Bartel, Laurie Hill 07/09/03

Minestrone 15m 19

Start as for CBTTTL but at the overlap continue straight up the face. Hamish Jackson, Molly Garton 21/09/03

Several other variations of the above two climbs have been done. There are no climbs on the second flake and the following three climbs are on the third flake.

Unnamed 16m 18

An unprotected route that has been top roped, climb the arête and left end of a wall. Tracy Power, Lies Paijmans, Dan Ewald 04/99

Second Last Supper 15m 17

Another unprotected line that has been top roped and takes the finely sculptured wall and slab right of U with horizontal crack at half height. Jock Morse, Dan Ewald 04/99

Broken Bread 17m 12

Stepped and blocky corner system with good protection at the right end of the third flake. Follow the corner and finish up the cracks and face, which is unprotected. Jock Morse, Dan Ewald 04/99

This climb starts on the face of the fourth flake, and moves round the arête to finish up the third flake.

Escape Route 18m 13

Start from a large flat rock up the wall, 1m right of an arête at the left end of the fourth flake, sparse but adequate protection up the face finishing immediately right of the arête. Jock Morse, Libby Evans 31/01/98

The Organ Pipes

The Organ Pipes are a series of vertical flakes that provide steep clean faces. Deep orange in colour, they can be clearly seen from the ledge of Yerba Wall and at times there is a small waterhole at the base of the faces. They are located within the boundary of the National Park and are reached by a

20 minute walk from the south side of the gorge. However, this outcrop is a registered sacred site and has important cultural significance, there is an information board about the site in the shade structure on the walk from the homestead to the waterhole. Do not climb on this crag, the routes are not in the index of this guide and have no descriptions, their names have been included so people who have found out about them from other sources will know not to climb them.

Eye in the Sky 18m 23

Andrei Cleland, Andrew Drenen 11/07/91

Eye in the Sky (Direct) 18m 24

Andrew Drenen, Andrei Cleland 11/07/91

Section 14.9 - Mt Ziel

Mt Ziel is the highest point in the Northern Territory. Within the boundary of a National Park, this remote peak is located approximately 45km north west of Glenn Helen Gorge, as the crow flies and is reached by dirt tracks either from the south or north. It offers some of the best walking and views you are likely to encounter in Central Australia and is literally littered with rock walls of varying height and quality as well as a number of great boulder spots including a very sporty little boulder field at its western end. Due to its remoteness very few people have ventured here and as such only one climb has been recorded, this goes up the south face and was approached by a full days hike from the southern side. No further details of the hike or route location are available. Only experienced climbers should consider venturing here and you will need to plan your trip carefully making sure you have plenty of supplies.

South Face of Mt Ziel 220m 17

This 6 pitch climb encounters much loose rock with big run outs and is a scary lead, it is said that pitch 3 (40m 16) up a vertical crack was the best and pitch 6 was the hardest. Mark Rewi, Ragni Mathur 2001

Section 15 - East McDonnell Ranges

Section 15.1 - Emily Hills

Emily Gap National Park houses one of the most sacred gaps in Central Australia, originally used for men's business, and climbing within the gap is strictly forbidden. There are however slabby cliffs all around and they offer a great playground with crags ranging from scrappy 10m crags to good quality 90m multi-pitch climbing. The rock is variable and the individual crag descriptions provide more detail, some superb climbing is to be found here and it is worth spending time to explore the area.

Getting there is relatively straightforward. Drive south from Alice Springs and take the second left after Heavitree Gap, head over the John Blakeman Bridge to a small roundabout and turn right onto the Ross Highway. Follow the Ross Highway for 10km and turn left down a short dirt road, which leads to a car park. Emily Gap National Park will be sign posted.

This is one place where local climbers made an attempt to legally open up an area. There are currently moves to make the whole of Emily and Jessie Hills a reserve, the area extends from Heavitree Gap through to just east of Jessie Gap. In mid 2000 the land management plan for this reserve was being reviewed and the local climbers put in a detailed submission to ensure climbing would be allowed on the better quality cliffs, this submission was summarily dismissed. Climbing was however said to be acceptable on a slab immediately north east of the car park, which had in the past been used by school groups and the Emergency Service Volunteer Unit. Although the slab has some fun and safe low-grade routes, the protection on the slab is sparse and finding solid belay points is difficult for many of the climbs. To add further uncertainty as to whether climbing is allowed, the Emergency Service Volunteer Unit is known to carry out abseil rescue and climbing exercises at various locations within the reserve boundaries. This may be due to the plan not being put into action yet, but regardless of this fact it is likely that they have gone through the official channels to obtain a Certificate of Compliance, see Section 4.

Vegetable Wall

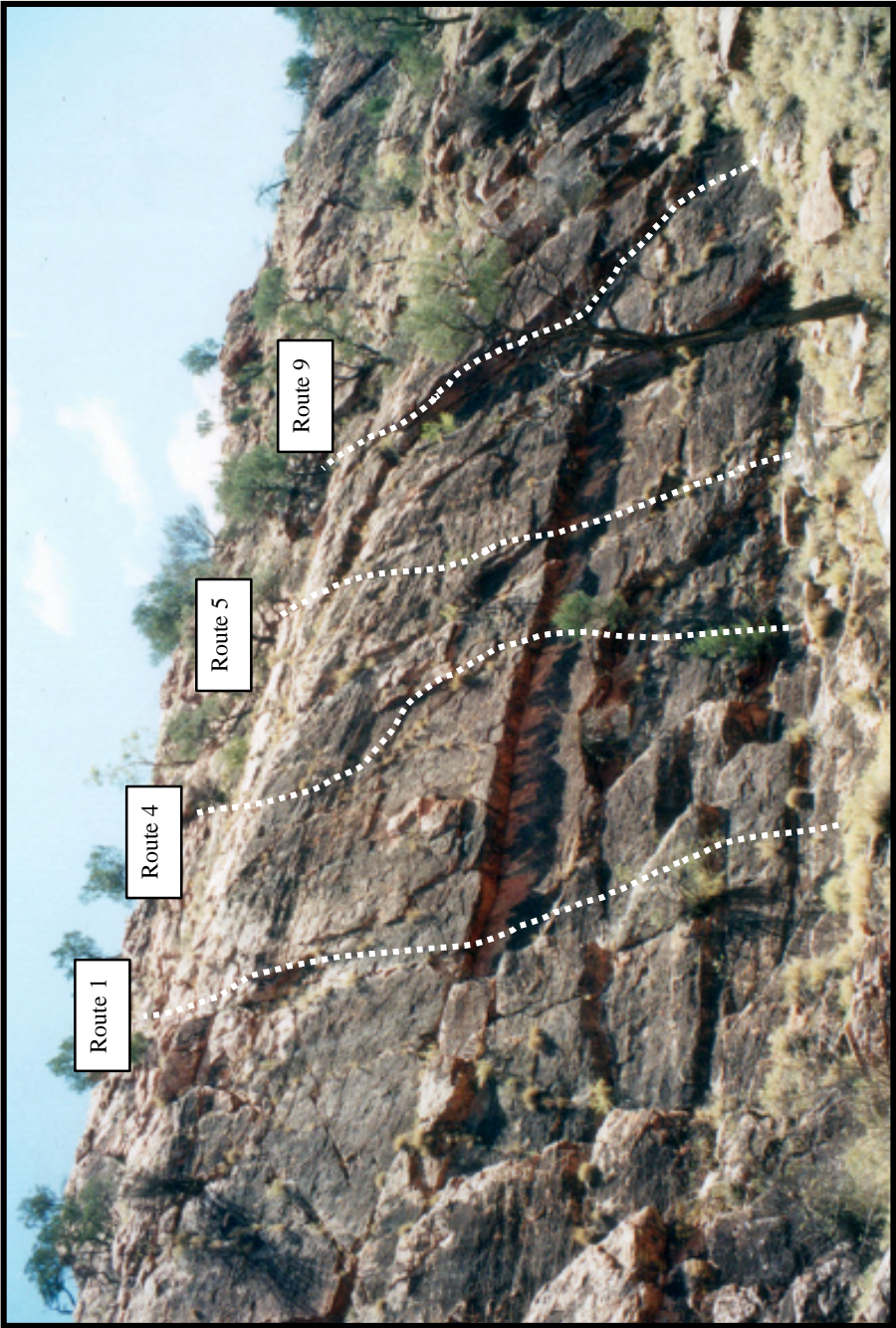
At ground level and immediately north of the car park is a short wall, it has in the past been used by some school and youth groups for abseiling. There are two solo climbs that have been done on this crag.

Hardly Worth Writing Up 10m 10

Slab and crack in middle of wall passing a rooflet. Kieran Culhane (solo) 1993

Hardly Worth Riding Up 10m 10

Grassy groove 2m right of HWWU and passing a rooflet at three quarter height. Kieran Culhane (solo) 1993



Emily Hills - Emily Slab

Emily Slab

This is the one wall where it is said that climbing has been approved. From the car park look up and right, you will see the 20m slab with an overlap at half-height. The rock quality is sketchy in places but there are some fun low grade routes to be done here, take care when setting up belays as much of the rock on the top is loose. The routes have been previously lead by many people over many years, but first ascentionists are unknown. For the purposes of this guide the routes are numbered, rather than named, from left to right looking at the crag. There are some fun slabs and corners to the right of route 9, these too have had many ascents.

Route 1 20m 8

At the left end of the lower portion of the slab follow the leftward trending ledge to just under the overlap, surmount the overlap and continue up the crack above.

Route 2 20m 14

Approximately 3m right of R1, head for a flake block just above the overlap and continue to the left of this block. The slab above is unprotected so take care.

Route 3 20m 13

Approximately 1m right of R2, head for the flake block and continue to the right of the block. The slab is again unprotected.

Route 4 20m 16

A sustained line starting 3m right of R3. A tricky move over the right hand end of the lower overlap. An easier move over the main overlap before continuing direct on sparse gear, after a few meter traverse right along a crack before continuing up a vertical crack through a slight bulge.

There is a wide crack in the upper slab that can be done. Whilst never too hard it is heavily vegetated and not much fun.

Route 5 20m 16

Start 2m right of R4 and head for a small recess on the lower part of the upper slab, the lower slab is unprotected. Place protection and surmount the right side of the recess, continuing up the thin crack.

Route 6 20m 15

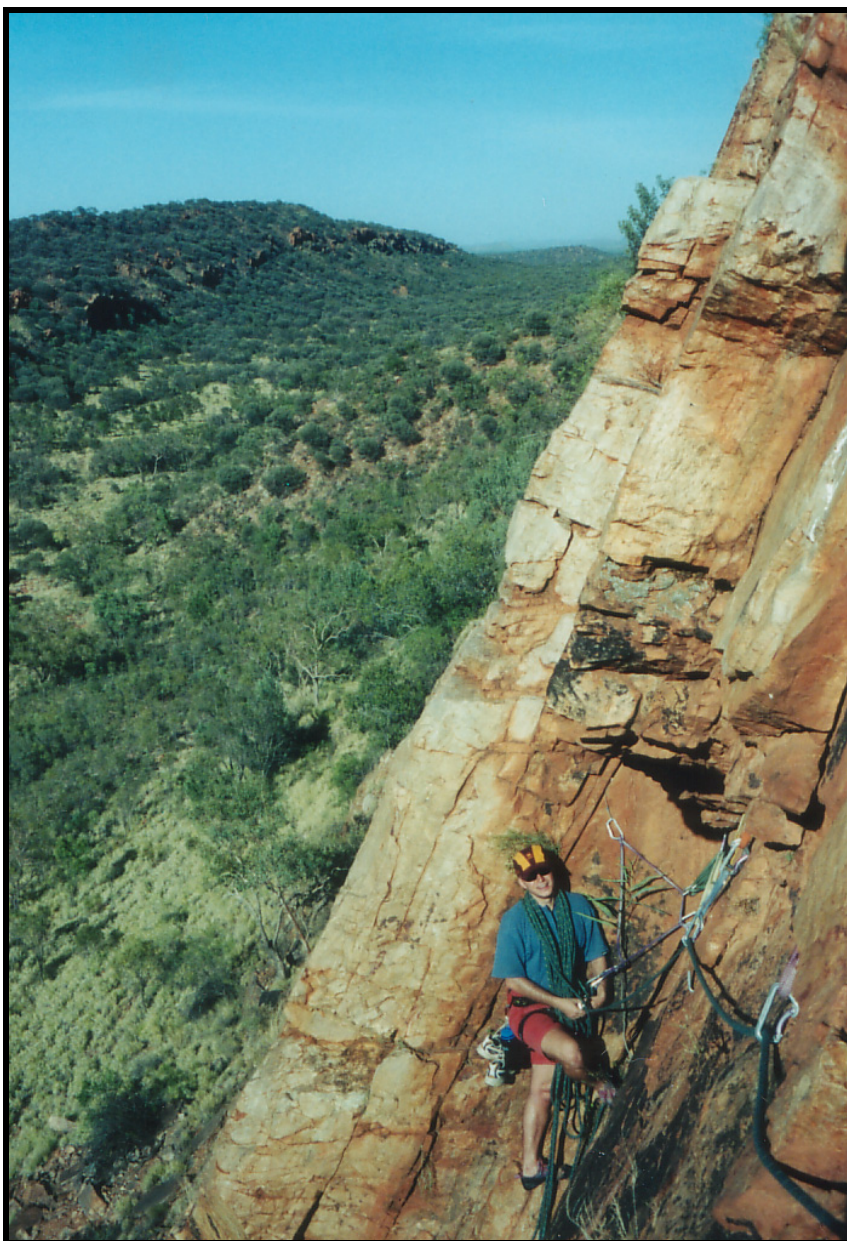
Another unprotected start 3m right of R5. Climb to the overlap to just below a crack in the upper slab, reach up high to place a number two wire before making a big step to gain the upper section that is runout in places.

Route 7 20m 12

A nice climb. Bridge the rightward facing groove a few meters right of R6, at the overlap continue up the leftward trending crack line.

Route 8 20m 12

Just right of R9 is a fine but unprotected slab, an old knife blade peg was found on this line.



Steve Warren belaying after the first pitch of Handle With Care - 15

Route 9 20m 8

A good beginner's route up the leftward facing corner at the far right hand end of the crag.

The following climb is within the gap. Do not climb it, the route is not in the index of this guide and has no description, its name has been included so people who have found out about it from other sources will know not to climb it.

Who the Fuck was Emily? 20 m 13

David Kirkby (solo) 10/95

Emily Left Side

As you walk towards the gap there is a clean slab on the left hand side, the following climbs are located on or near this slab. It is not clear whether climbing is permitted here as it is not in the gap itself and the Emergency Service Volunteer Unit has been seen doing roped climbing techniques in the descent gully to the right of this slab.

The Empty Glass 12m 15

Right of the descent gully are two slabs with an overhanging wall separating them, this climb ascends the left slab. Follow the rising zigzag with some tricky moves to a good finger edge, then follow centre of slab to top. David Kirkby (solo) 13/10/95

Tin Pan Alley 20m 17

A solid and clean line up the prominent black slab with two small overlaps, just right of the loose looking right facing corner. Follow the slab up the middle, great moves with spaced but adequate protection. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 20/01/96

Crusty's Crack 12m 13

Surprisingly good fun, the rock is much better than it looks. Up the corner crack left of TPA the final bulge being the crux. Eryne Hali, Damian Milo 10/02/96

Liquid Sky 13m 24

A strenuous and sustained outing up the right leaning crack 3m left of CC. The crux is passing the first bulge and although good gear is below you, be prepared for some airtime. Start using small holds in the crack or face, the bulge is tackled by stepping in from the right. Continue on easier but steep ground and exit left below the even steeper overhanging headwall at the top. Mark Rewi 26/09/98

Line of Flight 9m 18

A good climb, up the prominent S shaped hand crack 2m left of LS. Follow the crack stepping left onto the face when forced to and continue via the face or crack. Neil Melan 1996

Unnamed 9m 15

An unprotected route up the middle or right hand edge of the first dark slab on the south face just around the corner from LOF. Dan Ewald, Jock Morse 06/99

Repeating History 9m 10

The corner immediately left of U. Dan Ewald 06/99

Through the Leaves 30m 8

A pleasant ramble that climbs the arête left of RH. Up to the ledge below an overhang, straight through the overhang and follow the arête up the slab above finishing up a short clean corner. Garn Cooper, Luke Gaffney 15/12/04

Main Wall

The first sixteen climbs on Main Wall, the large south facing slabby wall to the left of the gap, are best descended by an easy scramble at the east end of the range into the gap. The rock is generally good but care should be taken. Climbs are described from right to left. Note the first seven routes are taken from Helen and John Griffiths September 1973 guide and generally ascend the easier corners and gullies that can be found before the cliff face reaches the top of the range. Due to the use of vegetation as reference points the precise location of these routes is not very clear and have not been verified.

Sidestep 29m 11

Starts at the east end of the cliff, by the gap and two gums (the start of this climb is possibly the same as RH).

1. 14m Up crack just right of the two gums to where it bends right and step across onto narrow ledge.
2. 15m Continue up (now heavily overgrown) corner crack to the top.

John Griffiths, Fergus Hughes, Helen Griffiths 15/10/72

Condign 33m 6

Locate a short slab behind the two gums right of W and climb the short vegetated corner to the left of the slab. At a ledge climb the crack above to gain a right leading ramp. From the ramp straight up a chimney to enter a corner from the right, up to large chockstone and step right to continue to the top. John Griffiths (solo) 21/01/73

Wisecrack 50m 9

Locate the large block at base off cliff about 10m left of two gum trees, scramble to the top of this to start.

1. 36m Short jam crack up from the left side of the block to a ledge. Up into a chimney until a large ledge is reached on the right.
2. 14m Continue up obvious line to belay from a large tree.

John Griffiths, Fergus Hughes, Helen Griffiths 06/01/73

Epiphany 57m 6

The companion crack line left of W, scramble to the start.

1. 10m Up the corner to tree, then right and up to a ledge.
2. 30m Up an easy crack from the left end of ledge to another large ledge on the right.
3. 17m Continue up the crack to the top.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 06/01/73

Vegetation 57m 8

A vegetated scramble up the overgrown crack just right of a prominent gully. Up past a tree to below a second tree that's avoided on its left. Return to the crack and up to a bush that is also avoided on its left. When the line breaks into two, follow a corner to the top. John Griffiths (solo) 21/01/73

Diakon 32m 11

The wide crack to the right of the gully, climb the crack until it is possible to gain a ledge on the right just before bushy tree. Up a slab just right of the bush to broken ground. Finish up the slab above. John Griffiths (solo) 21/01/73

Threllin 38m 4

A wide crack/corner in the next gully, when it degenerates to a scramble traverse right to just above a tree to gain a chimney that is followed to the top. John Griffiths (solo) 21/01/73

The next climb can be identified from the car park by the right facing corner on the second pitch. This corner is located 30m along from where the cliff face reaches to the top of the range, and starts 30m up from the ground.

Crown of Thorns 80m 12

A fun climb that starts approximately 85m left of the waterhole, directly below the right facing corner as described above.

1. 30m Climb the face and crack breaking through a small roof at 8m, continue up the crack and climb past a shallow chimney to reach a large belay ledge.
2. 25m Straight up the fun right facing corner finishing at a ledge below a small overhang.
3. 25m Climb the corner and step left to avoid the overhang, carry on up a vague crack and continue up more easily.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 03/12/72

Bon Voyage 80m 13

Another good line that starts as and follows pitch one of COT.

1. 30m 12 Same as pitch 1 of COT.
2. 25m 13 Head up and right from the belay ledge to gain the left facing corner, follow this to a stance below the right end of a small overhang.
3. 25m 12 Step up and right onto blocks, from here climb a vague crack in the slab before continuing up easier ground.

Krish Seewraj, Steve Warren (alt) 27/07/03

Handle With Care 65m 15

A great climb, with some airy moments on the first pitch due to spaced protection. Start 15m left of COT at a ragged crack below a prominent right facing corner that ends with a big right slanting roof.

1. 45m Up a rough crack, stepping right at the end to reach and climb the right facing corner on spaced gear. Undercling and smear up and right to the end of the roof and belay at a small ledge at the base of the next corner.

2. 20m An airy traverse right for 8m until it is possible to get through the overlap, then continue up an easy corner to reach a large tree on a good sized belay ledge. Walk off left.

Steve Thornton, Goshen Watts 20/01/96

Instead of the walk off left on HWC, an alternative easy and worthwhile 15m third pitch can be climbed. Up the face directly above the tree and step into the left facing corner. Climb this then step left into the middle of a pretty black slab, easily to top. Mark Rewi, Alison Trebileo 05/04/98

Indigo 38m 15

Good. Start as for HWC but at the ledge scramble along to just right of a small conifer 10m right of HWC's corner, belay from here. Move up to an overlap at 5m where a step up left gains the easy clean slab above. Climb directly to finish up the overlap below the large tree as for HWC. Avoid following the scrubby right leading diagonal half way up the slab. Mark Rewi, Brian Burford, Sam Latz 16/05/98

Ultra Violet 38m 17

Brilliant, but run out and scary. Start just left of the small conifer detailed in I. Follow the thin seam up slab easily then fire straight up the steeper and harder red slab above to the guano stained breach in the roof. Climb through the overlap by making an airy step left then up the middle of the slab above. Mark Rewi, Brian Burford, Ali Trebileo 18/05/98

No Relation to the Trees 80m 16

A nice climb with some exposed moves, look for a slabby wall of smooth white rock split by a ragged crack about 10m left of HWC. This came about while trying to locate the trees used to identify some of the older climbs without success.

1. 40m 15 Follow the crack through an exciting roof at 10m, then continue more easily on a direct line to belay at the base of a right facing corner.
2. 40m 16 Climb the corner and undercling up and right to the end of the roof, from here continue on a rising rightward traverse up short corners and fun roofs.

Steve Warren, Krish Seewraj (alt) 15/05/03

Tipster 53m 9

This one has not been found to verify its exact location but may start 5m left of NRTTT up broken corners. The description of how to find it made reference to a small brown and a white gumtree in the middle of the crag but which one is the question.

1. 30m Up corner, past ledge to another corner. At the next ledge traverse left and up corner to another large ledge.
2. 23m Up corner at the left end of a ledge, then traverse left until it is possible to go through break in the roof. Up the wall to the top.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 25/04/73

Definitely Not a Dance 75m 13

A fairly direct line with good positions but, a bit sparse for solid protection in some areas of the second pitch. Look for the black slab immediately left of T, this climb starts up the crack at the left end of this slab and is approximately 15m left of NRTTT.

1. 35m 11 Follow the crack and exit the slab on the left, move slightly left at the ledge to continue up a crack in the wall. Follow this crack till it peters out then move up and left to belay on a small ledge.
2. 40m 13 A direct line straight up from the belay ledge, start by following a vague crack line and at the ledge continue up a right facing corner to finish.

Steve Warren, Krish Seewraj (alt) 15/05/03

Sun Seekers 75m 14

A good first pitch that can be done alone, as it is possible to walk off from the ledge but it would be a shame not to continue up this enjoyable line. Look for the second black slab which starts a few meters left of DNAD, this climb goes up the clean slightly overhung right facing corner 3m from the left end of this slab and is about 12m along from DNAD.

1. 25m 14 Up the corner with good gear and sustained climbing. Higher up the rock deteriorates so care is needed but the climbing is still worthwhile and sustained, belay at the large ledge.

2. 30m 11 Directly above is a small overlap with a crack at its right end, head for this and break through to continue up the enjoyable face using a rough crack in the upper sections before reaching a cosy belay ledge.

3. 20m 12 Through the roof above and then more easily to finish.

Krish Seewraj, Steve Warren (alt) 15/05/03

Old Slippers 25m 16

Fun sustained climbing with some exposed positions starting 7m left of, and at the same ledge from where, pitch two of SS starts. The start slab is poorly protected, but is never too hard so can be climbed until the headwall. However for protection step left into the corner and then step back right to tackle the line that splits the headwall above. Follow the line until a large ledge is reached, from here it is also possible to abseil off using a sturdy Cyprus Pine. Krish Seewraj, Warwick Beever 02/05/04

Directly above the belay ledge of OS is a relatively short crack that goes through an imposing roof. This grade 16 continuation to OS, climbed by Garn Cooper and Sean Martin, is on good rock and has ample protection.

Sundance 69m 13

The original description detailed the climb as being the right hand line starting from the sundeck in the middle of the cliff, the Sundeck is assumed to the large ledge found after pitch 1 of SS. While trying to locate this line both DNAD and SS were climbed, and it is possible that some sections of SS follow the original line.

1. 35m Up the wall to a tree, then continue up a crack to a ledge. Keep following the cracks to where it goes diagonally left and widens, up this and around to a stance.

2. 17m Straight up above the belay to another large ledge. Traverse right to climb a smooth slab left of a wide crack, to a diagonal line which is followed to a crack, then back up right to a large ledge.

3. 17m Climb a wall to reach a diagonal ramp, ledge, then up a wall to the top.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Fergus Hughes (alt) 22/10/72

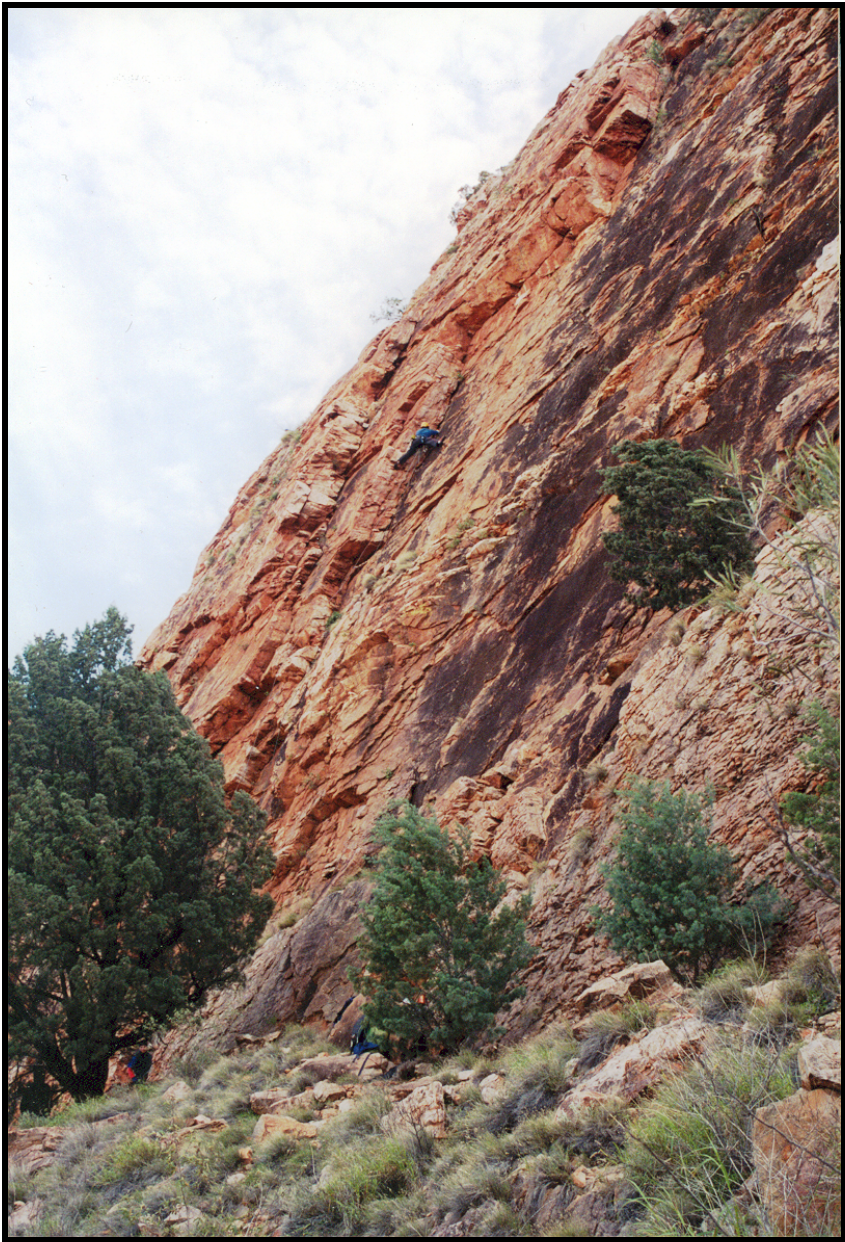
Vague Vogue 16 50m

About 25m left of OS is a right facing corner with a nice big cypress a few metres to the right.

1. 42m Climb the corners until above the vine and then make a rising right traverse to belay on the big ledge at the short corner.

2. 8m Either finish up the short corner at about grade 12 or (better) traverse right and climb through the weakness in the overhang.

Garn Cooper, Sean Martin 04/12/04



Warwick Beever belayed by Steve Warren on Cerebral Vortex - 13

There are some great long single pitch climbs in the next section, it is a bit of a rarity to get well balanced climbs that stretch the rope, so these are definitely worth checking out. Scrambling down to the east just past The Arch is the best descent for the following climbs, use The Arch as a reference point and work back right to identify the climbs.

High Blood Pressure 45m 15

A surprisingly good and consistent climb at the grade with some committing moves and airy position, starting up the short right facing corner 10m right of FA. Up the corner and continue more easily, at 15m climb the face to reach the small left facing corner system. Bold moves to get established in the corner, up this and finish up the right facing corner above. Steve Thornton, Krish Seewraj 28/03/04

Falling Apart 60m 11

Starting at the right end of the ledge from which SAOB starts.

1. 26 m Climb the vegetated face to large boulder then step left and over a bulge to belay on the right end of a ledge.
2. 34 m Up the corner then the slab towards a large crack on the right to a bush. Just left of the bush, up a face to a large tree belay.

Alison Garrett, Colin Crowe, Dominic Leadbeater 11/94

Senseless Acts of Beauty 48m 14

Start 15m right of CV on a ledge with a small conifer. Delightful climbing up a thin crack to a small overlap, take care going over this as there are a couple of loose blocks, continue to a mini-roof on spaced gear and breach it on the left to gain a ledge. Move right along the ledge, up a right facing corner then straight up the middle of the lovely but poorly protected face to top. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 10/02/96

The Waterboys 60m 13

A more direct and equally enjoyable version of SAOB.

1. 40m 13 Start as for SAOB but at the ledge continue up and slightly left to the base of the right facing corner, whilst never too hard a couple of run out sections up the grade.
2. 20m 10 Climb the corner, from the top follow more broken ground to finish up a small fun roof.

Krish Seewraj, Steve Warren 12/01/03

Random Acts of Kindness 45m 13

The first 25m of this climb offers great climbing. Start at the left end of the ledge from which SAOB up the face towards a vertical crack at 8m. Follow the crack taking care with loose rock near the top then up the easy left leading ramp, which leads to a galvanised piton that indicates an earlier ascent. Steve Thornton, Goshen Watts 10/02/96

Imagine That 45m 14

A more consistent climb than RAOK. Follow this route until the left leading ramp and then climb the delightful slab. The slab offers great climbing with sparse but adequate protection (small friends needed), a horizontal crack provides a good semi hanging belay before traversing of left to the same ledge that original climb finishes. Krish Seewraj, Warwick Beever 02/05/04

Stretch Marks 45m 16

Another good climb starting 5m right of CV with a committing and runout start. Climb the vague crack in the bulging headwall to reach a ledge at the base of the main slab. A thin start is followed by great climbing up the slab, heading for the right end of the roof of CV. Finish as for pitch 2 of CV. Krish Seewraj, Steve Thornton 28/03/04

Cerebral Vortex 52m 13

A fun climb with good protection starting at a small slab with an arch on its left about 8m right of TLP, look for the distinct right facing corner at 10m with a capping roof.

1. 40m 13 Follow the curving flakes 5m left of the large conifer then over a small roof and step into the main corner, traverse right below roof to belay at base of the next corner.
2. 12m 13 Up the corner, fighting with a spearwood bush.

Neil Mahunt, Allan Fartlett 1995

There are two variants for the above climb. For the first variant it is best to belay at the top of the main corner. For the second pitch traverse right until it is possible to break through the roof via some improbably moves, continuing on the slab above (grade 17). The second variant makes for a good 45m single pitch, but twin ropes are advised to avoid rope drag. At the top of the main corner step left and continue on a direct line (grade 13).

Here Comes the Sun 45m 15

A great line tackling the corner immediately left of the main corner of CV. Start as for CV but climb the middle of the slab to reach the apex of the archway, over the bulge and continue up the corner. When the corner ends, follow the vague crack up. Krish Seewraj, Warwick Beever 16/10/04

Left for Dead 45m 15

A fun line with some airy moments. The first half of this climb was done by Steve Thornton and Krish Seewraj in early 2004, but due to having come across three very ill looking camp dogs trapped on a ledge just before, they did not feel up to it and escaped left to the top of The Arch. Start up the wall left of CV, passing a right facing corner before gaining the cave. Step left out of the cave and climb straight up to the overlap, avoiding the large loose blocks on the right. Step onto the slab above and continue on a direct line, finishing up the short right facing corner in the upper section. Krish Seewraj, Sandra Parker 19/08/04

Finally 35m 14

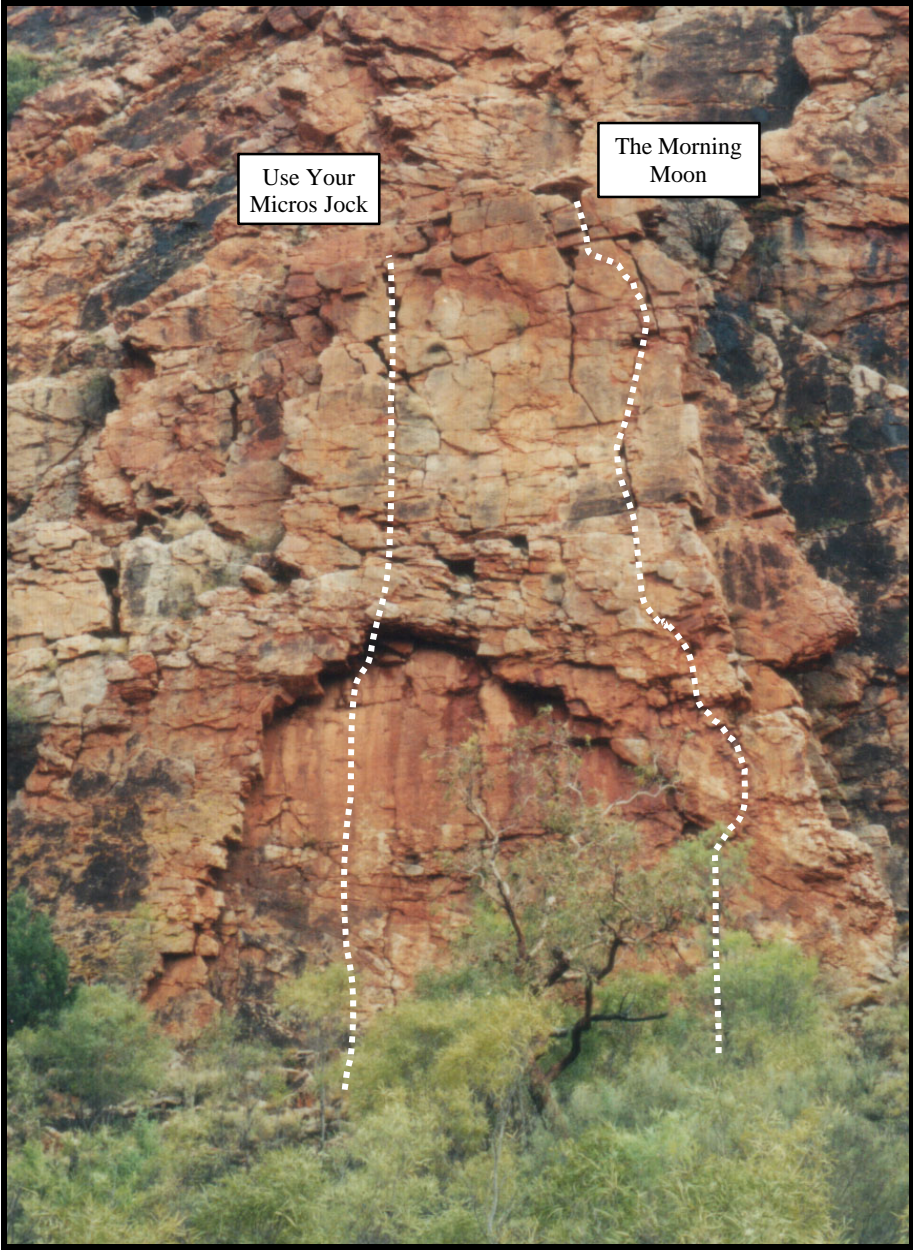
Another good line starting 3m left of LFD, unprotected climbing leads to the base of a right facing corner at 5m. Up the corner and then continue on a slightly right tending line to reach the edge of the cave. Up to the overlap as per LFD but continue left along the overlap before gaining the slab, straight up and finish to the left of the protruding headwall in the upper section. Warwick Beever, Krish Seewraj 16/10/04

The Last Post 36m 10

Left of F and up the wide chimney that separates the main cliff and the huge detached flake on which The Arch is located.

1. 23m Chimney to a large ledge.
2. 13m Up a wall to a ledge, then climb diagonally up and left to finish.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 25/04/73



Emily Hills - The Arch

The Arch

The next climbs are on The Arch about 8m left of Cerebral Vortex, descend by scrambling horizontally left until you reach an easier ramp. The presence of ancient pitons and a stuck friend (since removed) suggests that some of these climbs have had previous, unrecorded ascents. The wall below the overlap features crimps and narrow ledges, while the rock above is highly textured with excellent friction. This crag has a number of climbs equal in grade but varying in protection. The TMM and SIN are independent lines while TES, ES, UYMJ and CC have different lower sections but share the same options for the sections above the arch.

The Morning Moon 28m 16

Climb up the right side of the arch until you can step right and up the steepening face. From here step back left through small overlaps to gain the ledge above, continue up the cracks on the right side of the upper face. Steve Thornton, Goshen Watts 10/02/96

The Evening Star 28m 16

Climb the right side of the arch to the apex, undercling out over roof and continue up the face above. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 09/02/96

Empty Spaces 28m 16

A worthwhile climb with a better direct start to TES, climb the thin crack/seam just right of the middle of the slab with thought provoking protection below the overlap. Continue as for TES. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebelco 28/06/98

Use Your Micros Jock 25m 16

Climb the wall between ES and CC using edges and the thin crack (take your micro wires), surmount the roof at the left side of the apex and climb the face above. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald 12/04/02

Cosmic Crack 25m 14

Up the crack/chimney on the left side of the arch join UYMJ at the apex. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 10/02/96

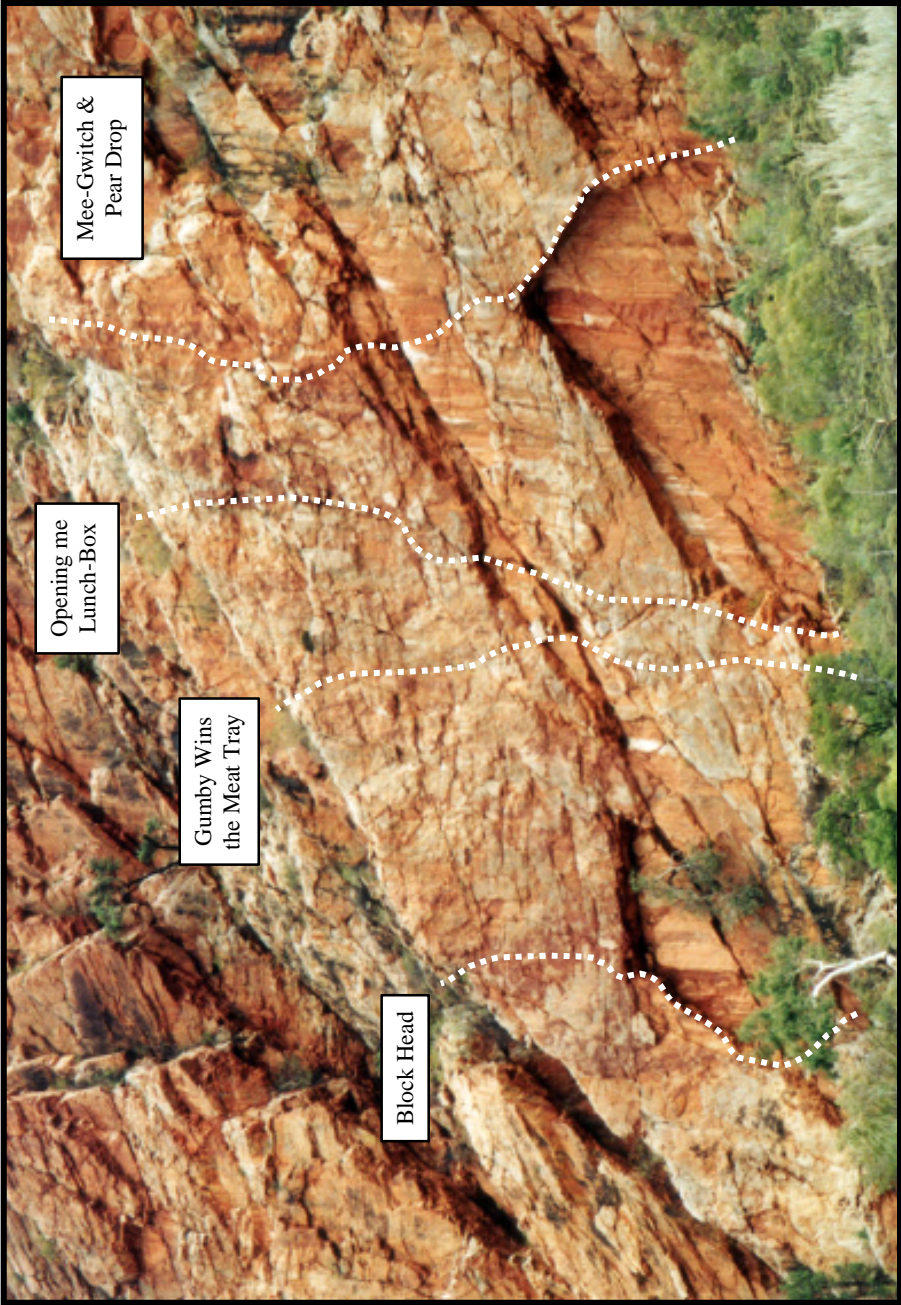
Safety in Numbers 13m 11

Climb the poorly protected face and slab 1.5m left of CC to disturbingly loose blocks at the top. Jock Morse, Dan Ewald 08/99

Behind a big pine tree and 5m left of the descent route for the previous climbs is a light coloured slab with a west facing corner on its left edge. The following climbs go up the slab and corner.

Do You Smell Skunk? 30m 12

An interesting piece of Centralian slabbery punctuated with a seemingly infinite number of holds that look solid, but flit off when put to the test. Gear is thin at the bottom but becomes better as you get higher. Jason Geres, Krish Seewraj 05/06/02



Emily Hills - M&M Wall

Return of the Gardener 20m 16

A nice but contrived line that keeps the grade as long as you stick to the corner and don't sneak onto the slab on the right when it gets thin, which drops the significantly. The west facing orange corner immediately left of DYSS provides fun sustained bridging with good protection. Krish Seewraj, Steve Thornton, Warwick Beever 08/03/04

M&M Wall

The next climbs are on a face called M&M Wall, which is located about 500m left of the gap past a large break in the cliff line. Walk along the valley floor to a fence, cross this and continue until a small stream is reached. Head up the slope to the right towards a large, triangular inset capped by 2m rooves. The rock here is great, solid with wonderful hidden in cut holds.

Milk, Milk Lemonade, Round The Corner Chocolates Made 40m 14

A meandering climb marred by loose rock on the first pitch, starting at the base of the hanging right facing corner approximately 40m right of M&M.

1. 20m 14 Climb the right trending weakness 2m right of the corner to belay on a large ledge.
2. 20m 14 Step left onto a ledge, climb up to and continue on the face for 5m then follow a leftward rising crack to the top of the crag.

Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj alt 28/04/02

M & M's 60m 16

A lovely climb, the first two pitches are great fun and can be done in one pitch if you feel like fighting the rope drag or if you are climbing on twin ropes.

1. 15m 13 Start approx 5m right of the left hand end of the inset, climb up to the undercling crack and follow it rightwards to the apex.
2. 20m 16 Committing moves from the belay off right using the jug then an easy diagonal traverse up and right leads to a small ledge. Belay here or continue up 5m to a large ledge.
3. 25m What ever you like, moving up the roof corner from the large ledge is probably about 15 and a touch thrutchy.

Neil Melan, Michael 1996

Candyfloss 12m 16

A harder more direct first pitch to MM. Start below the crack in right hand side of the triangle, a bouldery start gives way to easy climbing to the base of the crack. Follow this up and left via smears, jams and underclings to belay as for MM. Mark Rewi, Sam Latz, Brian Burford 1998

Mee-Gwitch 50m 19

The direct line through the roof of MM and C.

1. 20m 19 Climb as for MM or C, at the apex use a large wedged block (and faith) to reach out and up to good holds. Gain a stance on the lip of the roof before making a traverse up and left to a semi hanging belay with good protection in a horizontal crack.
2. 30m 16 Traverse right until possible to climb up flakes, then a rising rightward traverse to gain a ledge. Climbing becomes broken and easier, through flakes and wedged blocks to the top.

Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 17/04/02



Pat Spiers belayed by Jason Geres on Lazy Sunday Morning - 22

Pear Drop 20m 20

Wild! A much better second pitch for MG that is committing and exposed, taking a direct path up the face with good protection when it is needed most. From just left of the belay stance of pitch one on MG, unprotected climbing up to the guano streaked ledge. Place your gear at the back of the ledge and launch through the roof above moving left along the lip to good holds, a no.1.5 friend will be very useful here (miss it at your peril). Gaining a stance on the headwall is the crux, after which thin climbing leads to a second ledge, from here up a fun crack to a third ledge and then easier climbing to finish. Krish Seewraj, Pat Spiers 28/04/02

Opening me Lunch-Box 40m 19

A long and fun line taking the initially blanking looking face immediately right of GWTMT but beware of a very bold start that has ground fall potential from the thin and exposed crux at 5m. Start at the left hand end of the triangular roof, up the face placing wires in the horizontal break before making very exposed thin moves up the headwall, from here trend up and right towards the dark pocket underneath the main roof at 20m. Pull through the roof, traversing rightward on the headwall to reach easier climbing up the weakness on the right. Pat Spiers, Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 25/08/02

The following two climbs are two of the first to be done on this wall. They are both brilliant and should not be missed out. The top headwall section of both climbs especially provide excellent steep and sustained climbing.

Gumby Wins the Meat Tray 35m 19

Starting 5m left of the left hand end of the triangle roof just below a piton at 6m. Up past the piton and trend right to a block at the overlap, pass the block on its left before continuing up the headwall, past a second piton and sustained climbing. Neil Melan 1997

Toyboy Shaves His Legs 30m 16

Starting 6m left of GWTMT climb up to and along a right leading ramp. From this ramp either make a high left trending hand traverse or take a diagonal line from lower down to reach the loose looking blocks sitting ominously at the right end of the triangular roof. Break through the roof with exposed moves to gain the upper wall, following the right slanting crack before managing to take a more direct line up the beautiful steep face. Neil Melan 1997

The next two climbs are at the arch below the triangular roof.

Block Head 25m 19

A brilliant line with a stubborn block that proved too hard to dislodge. The first ascent was halted due to worries about the large block at the roof, an abseil inspection/clean failed to remove the stubborn block so finally a top roped ascent was made to see if it was possible to bypass the block. Climb the left side of the arch to the apex, surmount the roof avoiding the loose block via long reaches to good holds. Then ascend the face above where good holds and bomber protection keep on appearing, with a steep finish. Krish Seewraj, Mark Rewi 31/08/02

Lazy Sunday Morning 20m 22

An excellent upper section with great moves and protection makes this climb very worthwhile. Climb easily up the slab left of the arch trending right towards the wall below the rightward slanting

crack in the upper section. From the base of the wall climb up until an exposed move right can be made to a small ledge, from here follow the slanting crack. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 14/07/02

Election Wall

The next set of routes can be found on Election Wall. This crag may be problematic to find and is located several km further west along the range. It is an isolated crag that takes time to reach but for the adventurous is worth finding, in part due to its picturesque setting but also due to the long nature of the climbs. The easiest way to locate the crag is by looking for the break in the hills that lies immediately south, and parallel, of the main range. Standing in this break and looking north at the main range a large gully with long 45 degree sloping corners on its left side can be identified. Election Wall is located in the upper section of the ranges approximately 500m west of this gully, comprising a set of clean looking slabs and long corners. Access is either by walking in from the Emily Gap car park taking approximately one and a half hours, or by parking on the Ross Highway and walking in via the break in the hills taking about one hour. This crag offers some wonderful long slabs and corners. The rock is variable and there are sections of loose flakes and blocks and while protection is sparse in places it is good when found. Descents for all climbs can be made by walking east along the top of the ridge and rambling down the left leading ramp. Climbs are listed from right to left.

Uncertainty Ahead 60m 15

At the right end of the crag there is a corner, the top half of which becomes a right trending roof. This climb starts at the right end of the slab immediately left of the this corner.

1. 20m 8 Head over two small overlaps to reach a belay cave.
2. 40m 15 A bold lead due to patches of loose rock and spaced protection. Over the small roof above the cave, then head up and left passing an overlap to reach a ledge. Up the slab to reach and climb a vague crack, trending right at the top to exit at the right end of the slab.

Warwick Beever, Krish Seewraj (alt) 24/10/04

Extended Sentence 50m 15

Some fine moves make this a delightful climb but it will stretch a 50m rope, therefore it may be worth belaying on one of the ledges. Start 5m left of UA, climb to and continue up a thin crack in the middle of the slab with increasing difficulty until a small ledge is reached. Unprotected climbing up to the hollow overlap, over this to reach a second ledge before more easily following a series of small flakes. Krish Seewraj, Steve Thornton 10/10/04

Party Room Policies 55m 12

The corner left of ES is good to start but, as with most policies, has some nasty surprises for you ahead. The rock in the upper section deteriorates and whilst the climbing is never too hard care is needed. Warwick Beever, Krish Seewraj 24/10/04

Goodbye Medicare 60m 14

A pleasant wander up the next big corner left of PRP, parts of the first 20m is vegetated but once above this the climbing is good. At about 45m and just after some bold lay backing there is a great belay seat with good protection. Best done in two pitches unless you have a 60m rope and even then it stretches the rope. Steve Thornton, Krish Seewraj 10/10/04

Section 15.2 - Jessie Hills

The same situation befalls Jessie Gap National Park as does Emily Gap, climbing is strictly forbidden in the gap and there is uncertainty about the main cliffs either side of it. It is located a further 10km east from Emily Gap and most of the climbs listed here are taken from Helen and John Griffiths September 1973 guide. The precise locations of these routes have not been verified.

Taree Cliff

Taree Cliff is the main south facing wall west of the gap, climbs are described from right to left.

Spider Crack 83m 8

At the eastern end of Taree Cliff are two cracks 3m apart, both leading to a large chockstone, this climb follows the right hand crack.

1. 43m Up the slab on the right to a ledge above the chockstone. Up and through an overhang, following the crack up to a small stance.
2. 40m Step right and up a slab to a ridge, following this up left to a small white corner. Up the corner, then right to belay.

John Griffiths, Keith Seddon 10/02/73

The Web 35m 9

The left hand crack.

1. 12m Climb the slab below a bush, left of the chockstone. Veer around the bush then back left to the wide left crack, up this and belay below a chimney.
2. 23m Up the chimney crack to a ledge, finish up a curving crack.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 12/08/73

Deviations 37m 6

Taking the next gully, scramble up the gully for about 30m to behind fig tree. From here, climb the right hand gully up to and under the large chockstone then straight up chimney to top. Keith Seddon, Helen Griffiths, John Griffiths 28/04/73

Valgus 63m 13

Start from the fig tree of D.

1. 25m Easily up the left gully to below a black slab, belay on the slab or in the gully.
2. 30m Continue up the left gully until it steepens, then up a crack to below the overhang. Traverse left around this to a stance.
3. 8m Scramble to the top.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 12/08/73

Procreation 43m 10

The prominent crack left of V, up the crack and wall to the right to a ledge. Belay here or scramble up the left of three short cracks above.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 08/04/73

Primate 57m 8

Start at a shattered groove, left of P.

1. 13m Up the groove to the junction with the crack at the overhang. Traverse left to belay on a bushy ledge.
2. 44m The slab above moving left when the holds start to thin. Up the groove on right to easier ground below the obvious hanging block. Finish up the corner crack to the top.

Keith Seddon, John Griffiths 18/03/73

Genesis 10m 15

Up the crack in the smooth slab 2m left of P to tree. John Griffiths, Keith Seddon 18/03/73

Debut 39m 10

The chimney that splits a large slab to the left of G.

1. 12m Climb the crack to a ledge.
2. 27m From the right hand end of the ledge, climb a crack until it is possible to move into a gully to the left.

Keith Seddon, Pat Russell 28/04/73

Evolution 38m 8

As for D to the ledge then follow the chimney to top. John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 31/12/72

Origin of the Species 37m 6

Follows a corner left of E and finishes up a tight chimney. John Griffiths, Keith Seddon 11/03/73

Natural Selection 40m 10

The wide corner crack left of OFTS

1. 23m Up the wide corner-crack to a large ledge on the right. Continue up a smooth corner to another large ledge.
2. 17m Up the line until it is possible to go right around onto an exposed face, finishing up a V-groove.

Keith Seddon, John Griffiths 17/02/73

Arboreal Tactics 20m 6

Up the corner at the right edge of a black slab to a narrow chimney, continue up to a tree and ledge.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 08/04/73

Reveille 49m 11

Locate a large tree 30m up and left of a black slab the left end of a wall, scramble up to a crack 10m above the tree.

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

John Griffiths, Keith Seddon, Helen Griffiths 24/06/73

Mutation 32m 13

Good climbing up the corner left of R, up to a spike (beware of loose rock) and continue up the corner to the top. John Griffiths, Keith Seddon 24/06/73

Presto 30m 6

The right hand of two gullies, just above a ramp and left of M. Keith Seddon, Helen Griffiths 24/06/73

The following climb is located on Taree Cliff, approximately 200m left of the car park at a big flake.

Enigma 40m 15

Nice but escapable, walk to the base of the flake, at left leaning ramps and a tree. Up the thin crack 3m right of the ramp, this hard start can be avoided by traversing in from the left. Climb the face, veering left before the big flake, along the flake and then straight up and over to shallow corner. Scramble off. Goshen Watts, Steve Thornton 21/01/96

Witchetty Cliff

Witchetty Cliff is the main south facing wall east of the river and opposite the car park.

Shady Lane 67m 11

Starts by the tree in the gully opposite the car park, poor protection and loose rock.

1. 40m From slab on the left side of the gully climb a corner about 3m down from the tree. Follow the corner to where it steepens then up a short wall to a small ledge. Up a slab bounded by a wide crack on the right, then a groove to poor belay at stance.

2. 27m Traverse left across an easy slab to the far edge. Make an exposed move around this to gain an easy ridge and belay.

John Griffiths, Keith Seddon 10/02/73

The Precipice

This crag is north facing and west of the gap, to get to it walk through the gap and turn left.

Zebedee 87m 9

Starts at a line halfway along the cliff, marked by a small cairn.

1. 47m Up for 3m, then diagonally right and back left for 5m before going up to a white slab. Traverse right and up to a grassy ledge.

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

3. 34m Easily up the corner to the top.

John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths 28/04/73

At the northern end of the gap there is a short, small west facing crag with a sandy landing, this climb takes the right most line up this face.

Second Best 10m 10

The easy line through loose rock at the right end of the face. Sam Latz, Steve Grieg, Paul Cook 06/99

Section 15.3 - The Unknown

This collection of west facing crags is a lovely spot on a cold winter morning, it has a number of good quality lines. The only downside being some of the long and loose spinifex ridden walk offs. Located approximately 46km from Alice Springs on the north side of the Ross Highway, this crag is on land managed by the Garden Stations. Access to the area has been up and down due to the disruptive activities undertaken by other visiting parties, however the managers have in the past been happy for climbers to visit this particular area as long as they receive a letter absolving them of any liability should an accident occur. Bush camping in a creek bed is available less than a kilometre east of the turn off for the crag. As you drive along, the road makes a sweeping right bend that takes you away from the ranges on the left. The Unknown is located at the eastern end of this set of ranges and, whilst quite prominent it can be more easily identified when driving back towards town. About half way along the long sweeping bend there is a dirt track on the north side of the road, again more easily found when driving back towards town. This leads to a small clearing on rocky ground. Park here and trudge up the hill to the base of the cliffs taking care, as there is plenty of loose and sharp stuff to make you slip.

Whilst there are some great lines, there are some loose sections of rock and care should be taken. Take your hiking boots up with you on the climbs so you can negotiate some of the longer descents without getting too many spinifex spikes embedded in your feet. Climbs are described from left to right.

TV Buttress Area

At left end of the Unknown is TV Buttress, a deep red face about 5m wide and 20m high, there is a deep gully to its right with a large fig tree on the right side of the entrance.

After a Little Spanking 20m 18

The S shaped crack on a small cliff about 20m left and 10m up from TV Buttress, follow the crack to a steep finish. Chris Hogarth, Iain Paterson 08/98

Day Time TV 20m 19

Bold and beautiful but a serious lead due to some loose holds and sparse protection, climb the face of TV Buttress. Iain Paterson, Chris Hogarth 07/09/98

Little Drum-Machine Boy 25m 24

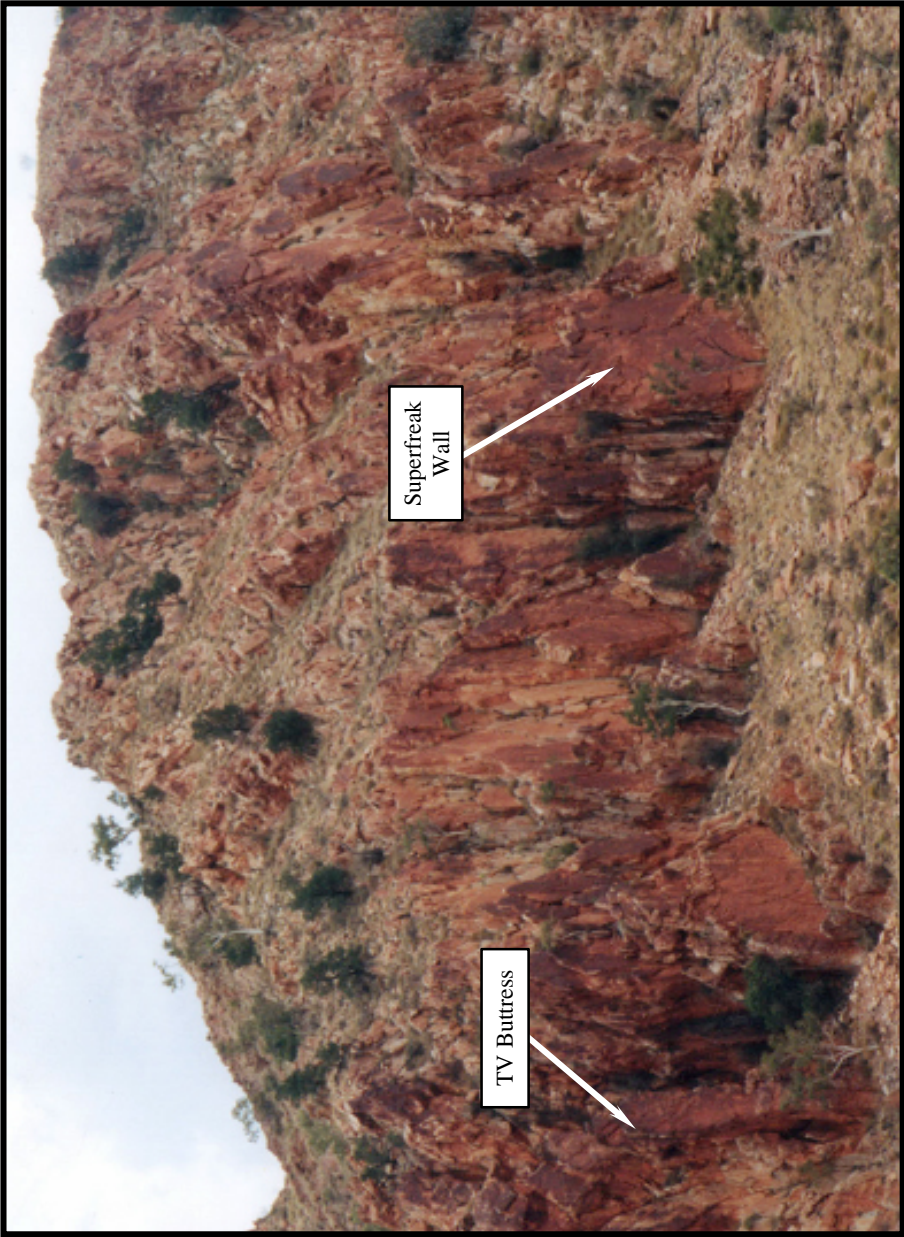
Steep and strenuous, the hand crack on leaning right wall of the gully with a long walk off. Iain Paterson 10/98

Divine Intervention 20m 17

A good climb starting 5m right of LDMB under the large fig tree. Struggle with the tree, then climb the slab to the steep crack and finish up with some nice jams. Chris Hogarth, Iain Paterson 07/09/98

Superfreak Wall

In the middle of the area is a clean wall with a white ghost gum at its base. This wall has the two best climbs of the area and is also useful for identifying a few other climbs.



The Unknown

In the Boulder's Shadow 25m 15

Approximately 50m left of Superfreak Wall is a fun curving corner crack below a hanging boulder. Steve Thornton, Alison Garrett 01/08/95

Diagonal Stride 20m 18

Climb ITBS until you can balance diagonally across left. Continue up a loose chimney for a few metres before stepping right of a ghost gum and finishing up the hanging corner. Iain Paterson, Chris Hogarth 06/09/98

Superfreak 18m 20

Excellent, well protected climbing up the seam on the left side of Superfreak Wall. There are two BRs the rest is natural. Simon Mentz, James McIntosh 01/05/93

Lonely Paradise 18m 21

Another wonderful line with a hard start, up the seam 3m right of S continuing up a pleasant flake, pass three BRs and natural protection. Simon Mentz, James McIntosh 06/05/93

Kookai 16m 16

The wide crack 3m right of LP, beware of some loose blocks. Jan van der Meulen, Kumi Koide 06/05/93

Kookai Connection 18m 16

A better way to finish K and avoiding the worst of the loose blocks, climb K for 8m then traverse left into LP. Mark Rewi, Sam Latz 27/06/98

Nomadic White Appliance Wall

About 60m right of Superfreak Wall is a large detached wall about 20m long. Behind this is the Nomadic White Appliance Wall with a deep gully leading up on its left. Destination Unknown takes an easy looking corner on the left side of this wall.

The Well Acquainted 25m 16

The face left of the deep gully. The face has two diagonal cracks, climb the first crack to a spinifex ledge then climb the arête to gain the higher diagonal. Climb this to the end to finish (easier descent), or climb face to top. Chris Hogarth, Iain Paterson 06/08/98

NT Man Dies As Caravan Explodes 20m 17

Good jamming on atrocious rock, climb it at your peril. High in the gully past a large ghost gum is a crack on the left wall follow this all the way. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebilco 20/09/98

From Little Things Big Things Roll 20m 16

In the gully 5m left of DU is a hand crack that eases after 5m to a low angle climb to the top. Chris Hogarth, Iain Paterson 06/08/98

Destination Unknown 25m 16

Good, though spoilt by the escapability of the crux. Climb the corner on the left end of Nomadic White Appliance Wall to steep hand crack, good moves up to the roof that is climbed via a crack (careful of loose flake at the lip) or avoid the crux and move right then up. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebilco 20/09/98

Land of the Nomadic Fridge 23m 16

Start 1m right of DU. Climb the shallow corner until it runs out, step right onto the loose wall and follow the loose toasters, microwaves and fridges diagonally right to the top. Chris Dolal, Iain Paterson 03/09/98

Spinifex Free Descent 6m 19

Behind the detached wall is a clean vertical crack passing a horizontal break at 3m, continue direct above to a ledge and descend without encountering any spinifex! Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 2000

Big Boys Eat Spam 16m 17

A narrow slab set back in a hidden inset with a large pine tree at its entrance 12m right of LOTNF. To gain the inset climb the short crack (14) behind large, detached wall, then up the right side of a slab. The crux moves are at one-third height when a left move around hanging arête is made, then up the arête and move left across a wall and up a pinnacle on the left. Sam Latz, Jock Morse 03/00

Unnamed 16m 17

Start as for BBES, traverse left beneath the hanging arête to the left side of the slab then up. Sam Latz, Jock Morse 08/99

Unnamed 16m 12

Start on the left of the inset, climb the wall and cracks and then up the arête/ridge. Ben Hodgens, Steve Grieg, Paul Cooke 03/00

Ghost Gum Wall

Ghost Gum Wall is located approximately 140m right of Nomadic White Appliance Wall and 80m right of two detached pinnacles.

A Natural Honey 28m 16

Left leaning crack then right to the main crack that splits Ghost Gum Wall. Steve Thornton, Alison Garrett 01/08/95

Real Wild Life 30m 18

This sustained climb starts 5m right of ANH, up the shallow left facing groove 2m right of a chossy weakness. Finish up the short right leaning diagonal at a prominent white gum. Simon Mentz, James McIntosh 01/05/93

Female of Unknown Origin 10m 16

Better than it looks, the blocky line 8m right of RWL starting behind a small tree. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebilco 20/09/98

Outback Wall

From Ghost Gum wall walk about 20m right and look up. At the top of the very loose white pillars is a solid red wall, the prominent crack in the centre of the wall is Better Than a Swag.

Lord of the Toyotas 8m 16

The left line on the wall is better than it looks. Iain Paterson, Chris Dolal 03/09/98

Better Than a Swag 10m 19

A pleasure to jam and protect, up the line in the centre of the wall. Iain Paterson, Chris Hogarth 08/98

Section 15.4 - Corroboree Rock

Corroboree Rock is located north of the Ross Highway approximately 51km from town. It is a large freestanding limestone outcrop that is a registered sacred site and has important cultural significance. There is an information board about the site at the car park. Do not climb on this crag, the route is not in the index of this guide and has no description, the name has been included so people who have found out about it from other sources will know not to climb it.

Overpowered by Funk 18m 23

Simon Mentz, James McIntosh 29/04/93

Section 15.5 - Benstead Creek

Benstead Creek is the largest limestone outcrop that has been developed in the centre. With only two sport routes and one natural line so far being established, there is potential for many more quality lines. Located on land managed by The Garden Station, permission must be obtained from the land managers beforehand, 08 8956 9764. Access to the area has been up and down due to the disruptive activities undertaken by other visiting parties, however the managers have in the past been happy for climbers to visit this particular area as long as they receive a letter absolving them of any liability should an accident occur. To ensure that this area remains accessible and open, please contact them and provide any necessary documentation they require.

Head east on the Ross Highway for 66km. Immediately before Benstead Creek, take the sandy road heading north and following along side the creek bed. The crag is hard to miss being on the right hand side of the creek bed just past the second sandy crossing, approximately 2km from the Ross Highway. To get to the base of the crag you'll need a 4WD, but it isn't a long walk from the first sandy crossing. If permission has been sought you'll be allowed to camp there, if so be sure to leave the area as you found it. The crag starts at the creek bed with a fun steep bouldering wall. Walking left, the wall steepens and rises to a height of 15m. This part has been called Lower Benstead. There is currently only one line in the middle of the wall with potential for more routes.

Mini Cooper 'S' 13m 24

In the middle of Lower Benstead is a good steep face climb up past 5 BRs to a chain lower off. Richard Lodge 08/10/01

Further to the left of Lower Benstead the main cliff looms ominously above. Aptly named Benstead Proper, this comprises an impressive overhanging cave with a steep headwall above.

Birds of Prey 45m 22

A natural line up the path of least resistance on Benstead Proper, walk up the left side of the cliff until a small step is reached, the climb takes a large diagonal crack leading up to the right.

1. 28m 21 A steep start eases to nice climbing, strenuous moves lead past a small hanging corner to a good jug then continue up left to a DBB (single rope abseil is possible from here)
2. 17m 22 Traverse 5m right to gain a diagonal crack (crux), up this till it ends then straight up to the slab above. Traverse left to a DBB (double rope abseil is possible from here)

Goshen Watts, Richard Lodge 08/10/01

Non Stop Action Groove 45m 28

A hard climb with 13 FHs, the placement of the first three are such that a nasty landing is waiting for the climber that doesn't manage to make the next clip. Start on the far right side of the cave, where the cave wall meets an open platform.

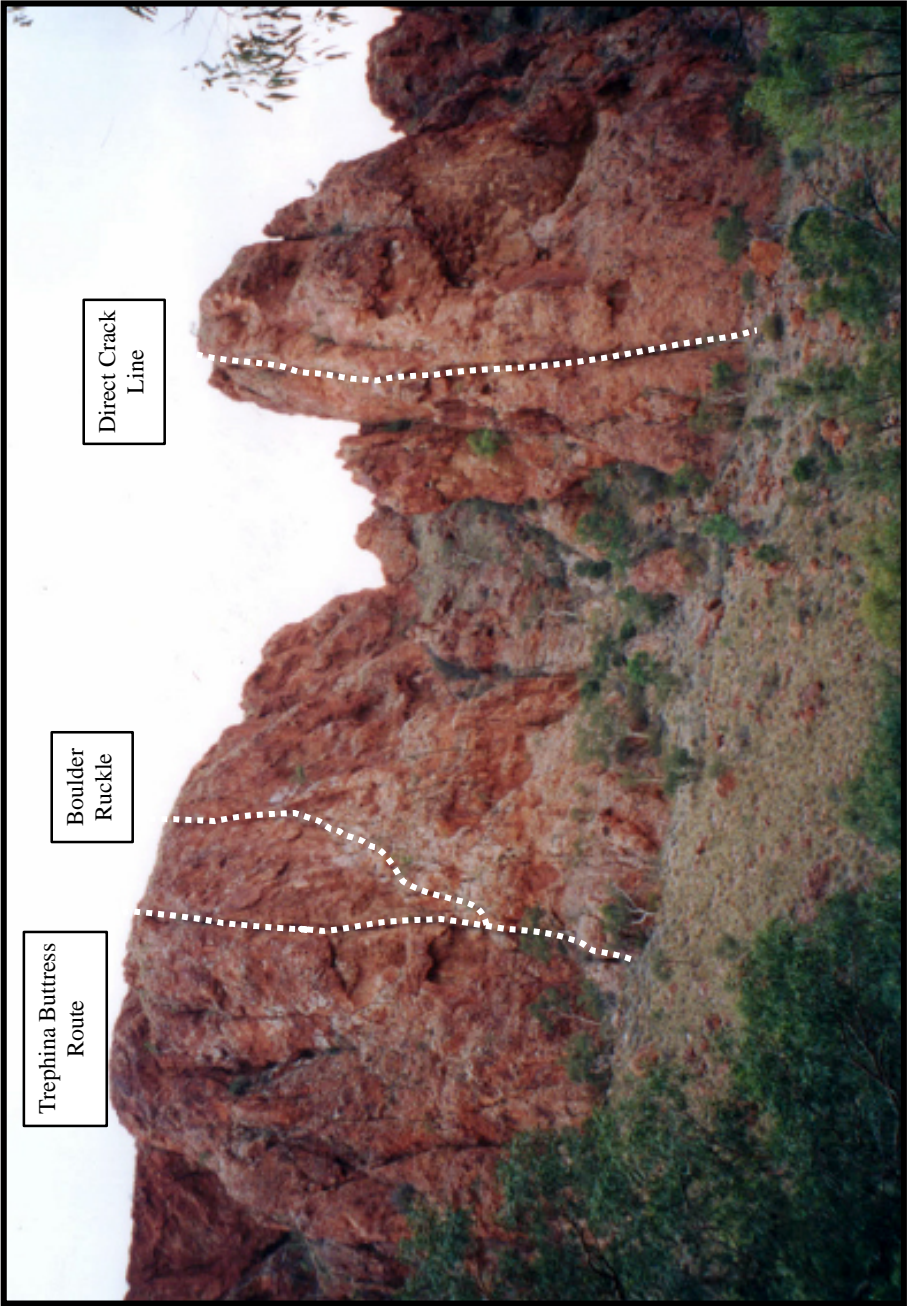
1. 20m 25 Climb the short wall (FH) to a cave, then left (BR) and up (#9 wire might be handy) with strenuous moves to the horizontal. From here head left, then nice climbing to double diagonal cracks and shackles (single rope abseil is possible from here).
2. 25m 28 Into the corner and hard moves up to another diagonal crack, continue on pockets and traverse left on a leading diagonal, then straight up past another FH to finish. Belay at a chain on a huge block (double rope abseil is possible from here).

Goshen Watts 02/10/01

Section 15.6 - Trepkina

The turn off for Trepkina is 72km from town along the Ross Highway. The road leading into this National Park is 8km long. Half sealed and half dirt but accessible by 2WD. It has commercial camping spots, beautiful outlooks and a variety of walking tracks that are better than most of the easily accessible National Parks in the region. Bush camping is available nearby, on the Ross Highway, instead of turning left into the park look for a right turn through the trees, this will lead you to a couple of sandy creek beds that are quiet and comfortable. The land here is managed by the Garden Stations and permission should be sought from the station owners, 08 8956 9764.

The rock in the gorge is generally good with some fun lines, however many climbs are fairly inconsistent making the routes one move wonders. The rock on the Bluff can vary considerably and care should be taken. One climb in this area that really should not be missed is a 120m grade 14, a rarity in the centre. Access has varied considerably over time and depends on the Park Ranger at the time.



Trepina Gorge - Trepina Bluff

Resurrection Wall

On the drive into Trepghina Gorge, there are two short creek bed crossings followed by a large river crossing. Drive just past here and turn into the bluff campground on the right to park. Walk back along the road to the river crossing and walk on the north side of the river looking up at the hills to your right in search of a black wall/slab two thirds of the way up. The slab can only just be seen from the bluff campground. After 100m or so along the river bed, look for a dry streambed on the right and follow this up the hill until a suitable exit can be found on the left to gain the ridge that takes you to the left hand edge of the crag. The further up the streambed you venture, the less spinifex you'll have to tackle on the ridge. Descend off the crag via the scree slope to the right.

Twelve Stations of the Moss 18m 18

Start near a small tree in middle of the cliff and follow the broken vertical crack for 3m, then make a rising rightward traverse following the thin crack. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald 24/04/00

Trepghina Bluff

From the bluff campground and on the south side of the river is an imposing set of bluffs. They tower above the rest of the landscape and depending on the time of day and the games that the shadows play there will seem to be endless possibilities of long routes. Unfortunately the rock is highly variable and not many good lines are for the picking. The following two climbs are on the main bluff to the left and the third climb is on the pinnacle on the right, a deep saddle separates the two. Descents for the first two climbs are to the left along the bluff and down the ridge. The descent from the third climb is down the saddle.

Trepghina Buttress Route 120m 15

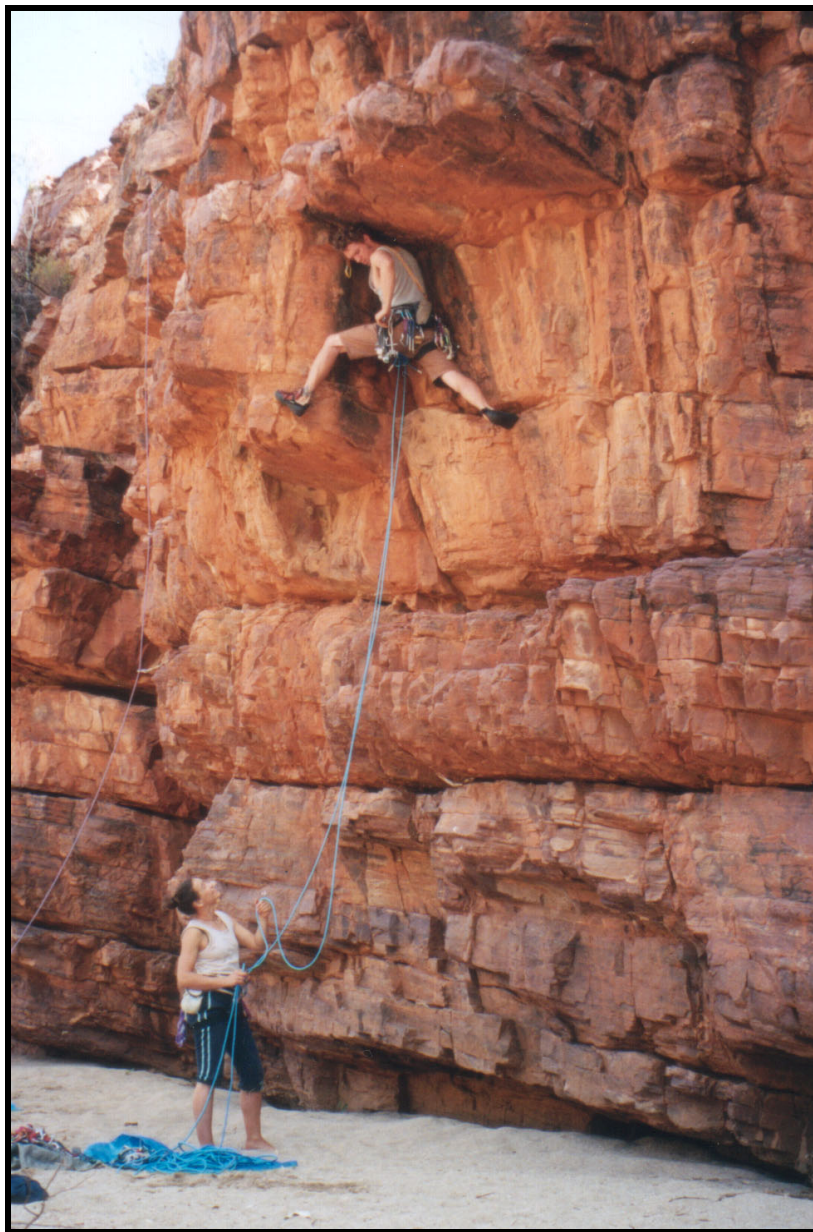
The chimney that ascends the entire length of the middle of the main buttress looks good but once in it you will encounter huge titting boulders that threaten to dislodge at the slightest provocation. To get to the base of the chimney, climb pitch one of BR, from here you can make a decision as to whether to risk the ridiculous or go for the slightly saner BR (I choose the latter!). The first ascent is by unknown parties but pitons were found when Neil Melan and a party of others completed the route during a five hour ordeal in 1996

Boulder Ruckle 120m 18

A varied and enjoyable three pitch climb avoiding the horrible chimney, it has an entertaining first pitch and serious final pitch.

1. 28m 13 Climb into the darkest recess of the chimney and exit through the opening above, follow short slab to a small steep wall which is climbed to a ledge.
2. 45m 9 The rightward rising ramp to the top of the pinnacle.
3. 30m 18 The line directly above the stance, layback the flake and jam up the overhanging crack above and on to the top trying desperately not to dislodge loose rock onto your belayer.

Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald 24/04/00



Karl Gooden belayed by Claire Helm on Hammock in the Shade - 17

Direct Crack Line 125m 14

This climb is sustained and fun, ascending the central crack line that can be seen extending from the bottom to the top of the broad pinnacle right of the saddle. There is one run out section on loose rock on pitch 3, while never hard this section does need a level headed approach. Several groups have managed to go off line after pitch 2, by climbing the slabs that head of right. These slabs are extremely run out and loose and are not recommended. The traverse/walk detailed in the description for pitch 3 is hard to miss, so make sure you don't!

1. 45m 14 Ascend crack and belay at ledge below a capped roof.
2. 25m 14 Round the roof on the right and up the crack and chimney to belay on a ledge.
3. 50m 14 Traverse/walk along the ledge to the base of a corner, up the corner and continue on a direct line to the top.

The first ascent is by unknown parties but a piton was found on the first belay ledge when Dan Ewald and Krish Seewraj completed the route on 16/04/00

Trephina Gorge

Continue a few km past the bluff campground and you will reach the gorge car park, from here a short walk will take you into the gorge where a sandy riverbed carves a path in-between two red brown quartzite walls. The rock is generally good and the descents are fairly easy to locate, either walk to the right or left to the nearest scramble down. A topo has been included on the next page to make it easier to locate the areas and climbs.

East Side

The right side of the riverbed has a grassy ledge with trees and bushes hiding Black Wall where there are numerous fun lines that have been soloed by numerous people but none have been listed as climbs. The main climbing is on the red brown and orange quartzite wall that starts some 100m down the riverbed. The wall is undercut for most of its length and the lower rock is waterworn providing a slippery glassy surface. As such the climbs are generally hard to start but get easier.

Hammock in the Shade 8m 17

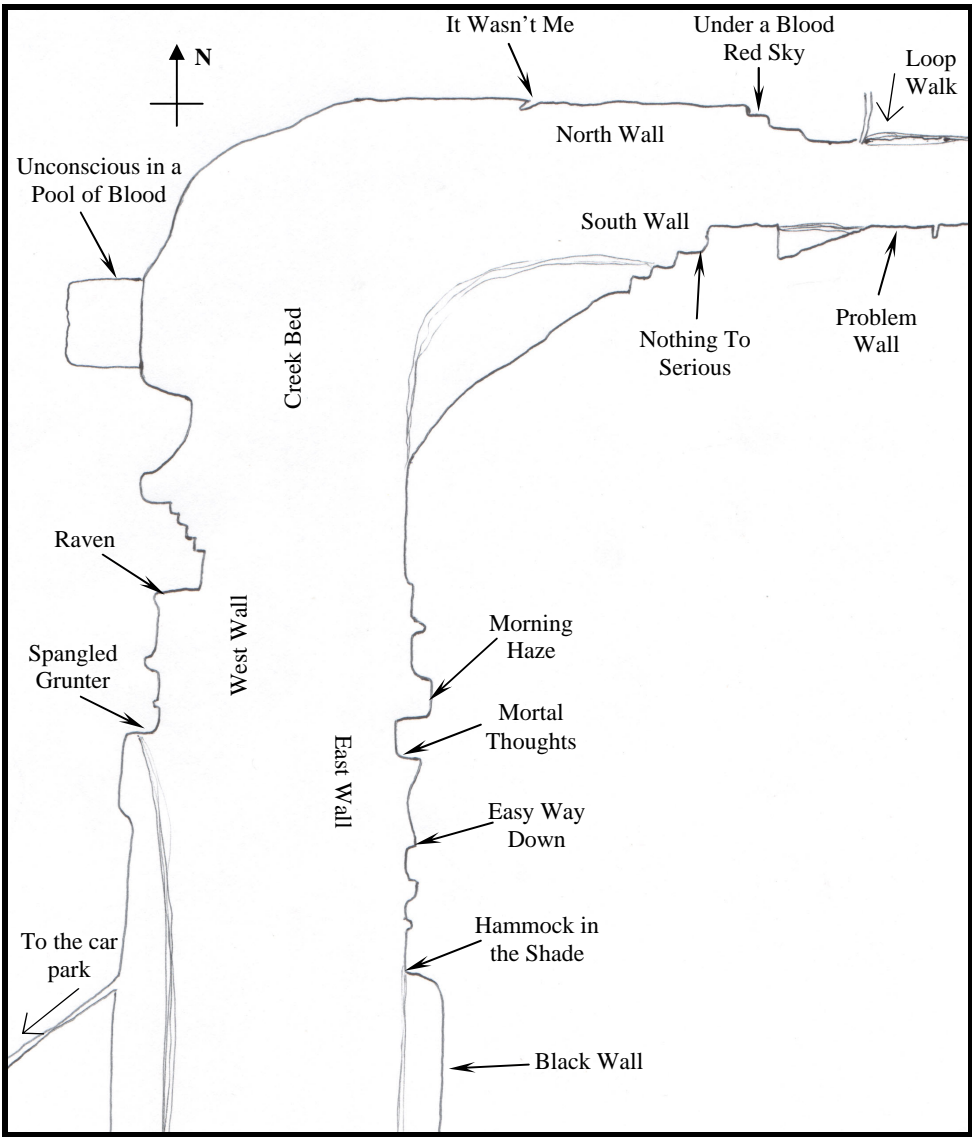
At the right end of the first buttress there is a right facing corner with a small square roof, climb to the roof and break through on the left continuing up the short headwall above. Krish Seewraj, Steve Grieg 09/04/00

If it Wasn't for the Quads this Would Never Have Happened 8m 20

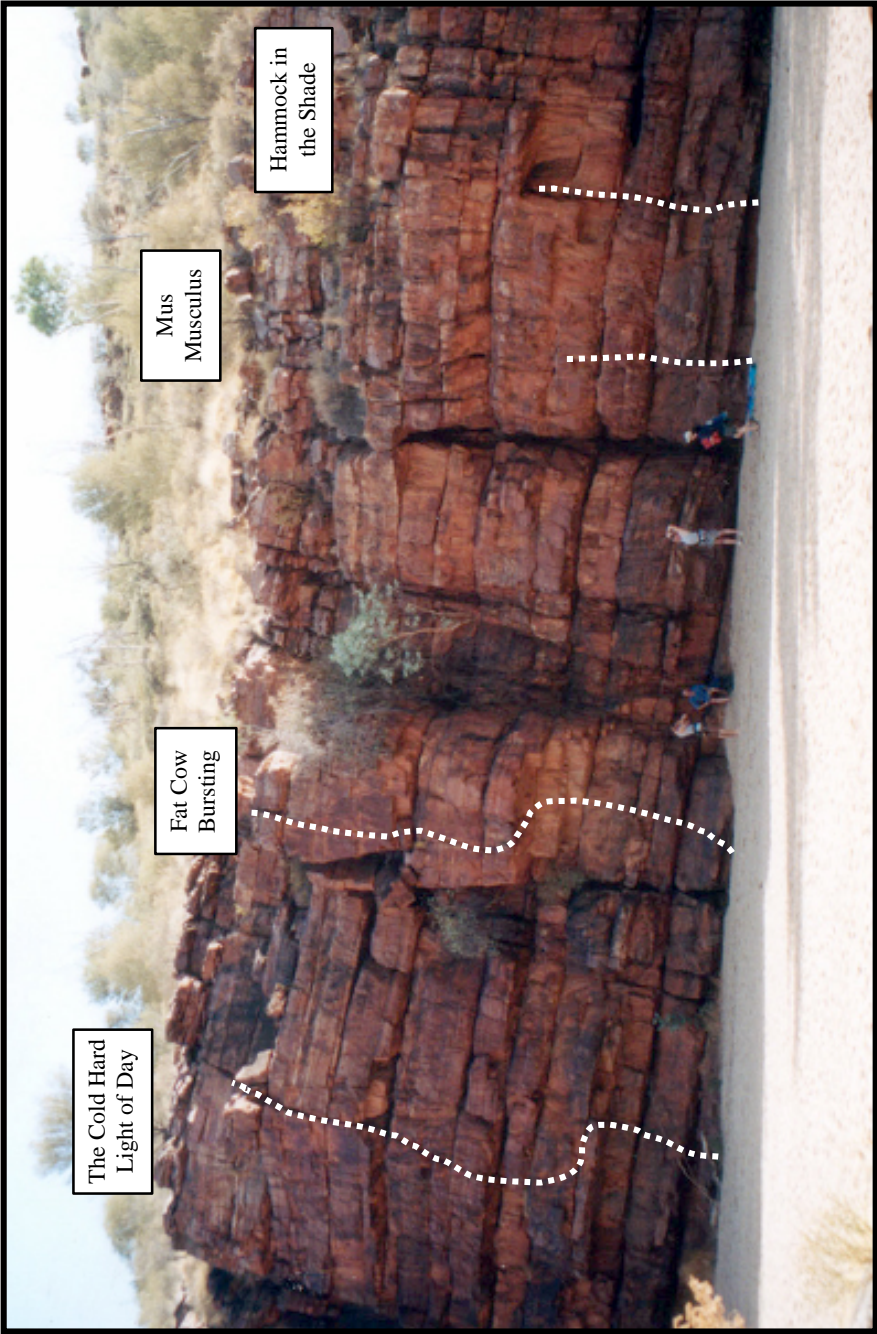
A bad night at Benstead Creek, when at midnight we were chased out by cattle rustling trespassers on bikes, quads and in a 4WD, meant we came to Trephina and this is the result. Sparse gear makes it a bold lead, but it is great fun and has a sandy landing so why not solo it? Start 1m right of MM trend up and right to gain the prominent nose at two-thirds height and 1m left of the corner on HITS, get on top of this and continue direct. Krish Seewraj (solo) 18/08/02

Mus Musculus 8m 14

Another enjoyable line 5m left of HITS and 3m left of CWR, up the steep wall through horizontal breaks. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 03/12/00



Topo of Trepghina Gorge
(not to scale)



Trephina Gorge - East Wall

Chimney With Roof 10m 11

The chimney at the end of the first buttress with a roof, which was avoided by exiting both to the left and right. Steve Greig, Sam Latz 03/12/00

Why? 10m 17

The chimney of CWR and then through the roof crack. Krish Seewraj, Jason Geres 05/08/01

Fat Cow Bursting 10m 20 M2

Approximately 10m left of CWR is a scary looking roof with a thin crack. Up the wall and over the roof via pumppy moves to gain the lip. Mark Rewi (2 points of aid) 21/09/98

The next area has a more prominent undercut that is about 2m at its widest section, the first climb ascends the left facing corner that bounds the right end of this section. The second climb is through the roof at its widest part via a clean flake. The remaining climbs are located to the left, after the blunt arête.

Easy Way Down 15m 10

Start 4m left of FCB, up the left facing corner to a ledge then trend up and left via short faces and cracks. Krish Seewraj (solo) 09/04/00

The Cold Hard Light of Day 15m 18

Start 4m left of EWD and climb through the widest section of the undercut using a fine flake then up the easy hand crack on the blunt arête above. Mark Rewi 21/09/98

Visions of Dan 15m 18

Just left of the blunt arête breach the roof at 3.5m via a small V notch. Up a seam to the second horizontal then up the thin seam 1m left below a triangular block to the top. Krish Seewraj, Steve Grieg 09/04/00

Café Negro 15m 17

Good fun but with a few long stretches. Breaking through the roof 3m left of VOD then steeply up past the two horizontals in the middle of the two faces. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebilco 21/09/98

Cafe Blanca 15m 14

A hard start through the V groove 2m left of CN then straight up, avoiding stacked loose blocks at the top. Dan Ewald, Steve Greig 25/04/00

Unnamed 16m 12

Up the chimney 3m left of CB with a tricky exit left at the top. Steve Greig, Sam Latz 25/04/00

The next two climbs are on the section of wall bound on the right by the chimney of Unnamed, and on the left by a prominent buttress forming a right facing corner.

Monty the Tortoise 16m 17

A layaway start through the overhanging wall 4m left of U then up a thin right leaning crack, stepping left at the final short headwall to continue direct. Krish Seewraj, Dan Ewald 25/04/00



Dan Ewald belayed by Tracey Powers on Café Negro - 17

Tommy Turtle 16m 17

Start 3m left of MTT, through the roof and shallow hand crack to a saw tooth ledge at 5m, up through many horizontals to an unprotected and thin top face. Sam Latz, Steve Greig 25/05/00

Mortal Thoughts 16m 20

An impressive climb that ascends the overhanging left face of the corner that is formed by the buttress 8m left of TT. Start at the right end of the front of the buttress and climb to the overhang. Then committing moves right to gain the steep face, up this via horizontals until an escape left can be made to a ledge before the face gets even steeper. Finish up the easy slab on the front face. An alternative and easier start at 18 goes up the chimney right of the face before stepping onto the face and continuing as described. Sam Latz, Krish Seewraj 25/04/00

Immortal Thoughts 16m 22

Only top roped till now but the way to finish MT, instead of escaping left to the ledge it continues up the steepening face to the top. Krish Seewraj, Sam Latz 25/04/00

Insurgence 15m 19

Great moves up the overhanging crack at the left end of the buttress, 6m left of MT. Up through the cracks, then up the slab and overlap. Mark Rewi 19/09/98

Doing Our Thing In The Sand 15m 17

A beautiful line up the left facing corner crack 2m left of I. One hard but well protected move before turning the roof on its left, finishing up the slab above. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebilco 19/09/98

RH variant 15m 17

As for DOTITS until the roof, which is breached on the right then continue as before. Mark Rewi 07/01

Morning Haze 20m 14

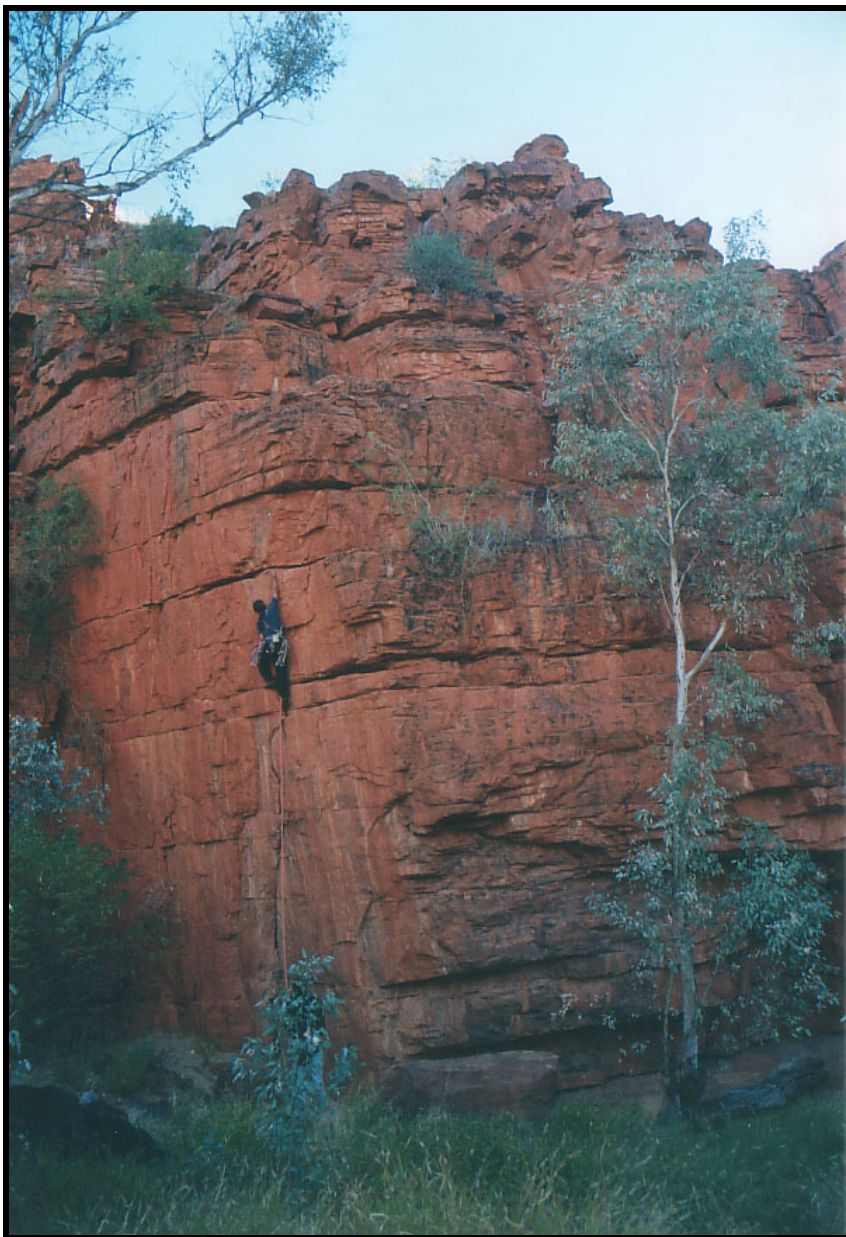
Fantastic and unlikely, with great exposure! Climb the thin seam on the inset slab left of DOTITS, then up a flake to the large roof. A wildly exposed hand traverse left on good holds is then made, gain a small ledge on the left and up the pleasant slab above. Mark Rewi, Ali Trebilco 19/09/98

West Wall

This wall is on the left of the gorge and has some of the higher rock faces, which are unfortunately more broken with ledges than the East Wall and they also have a greater deal of loose rock. However, there are some worthwhile climbs.

Spangled Grunter 10m 22

A great but pumpy climb, walk down the riverbed for about 200m passing a line of river gums on the left hand bank (not those in the bed itself). The climb ascends the short wall facing you just after the trees and is opposite I on the East Wall. Climb the flake near the right end of the wall till a horizontal move left can be made to a loose looking chock stone, from here follow the thin seam to the top. Simon Mentz, Rebecca McCowen 04/93



Krish Seewraj on Spangled Grunter - 22

The Executioner 15m 16

Approximately 8m right of SG on the main face is a chimney with an overhanging start. Surmount the overhang and continue up the chimney to belay on a large ledge. John Griffiths 26/05/73

Raven 20m 9

Worthwhile, another 100m along from TE is a prominent large left facing corner, up this and exit right. Keith Seddon, John Griffiths 26/05/73

Raven Direct Finish 6m 22

The overhanging crack in the upper headwall left of R is steeper and harder than it looks, providing a beautiful line of solid hand jams. Follow R before traversing left below the first roof, pull up and through cracks onto the headwall and jam upwards. Simon Mentz, James McIntosh 30/04/93

Platypoda 25m 13

The right facing corner 15m right of R is tackled by bridging up the corner and face to a large ledge below the overhangs, then step left to climb the chimney to a belay ledge. John Griffiths, Helen Griffiths, Keith Seddon 26/05/73

Platypoda Direct Finish 25m 20

From the large ledge of P continue direct up the right hand chimney and overhanging crack. Mark Rewi 17/05/98

A further 100m along and just before the riverbed veers right there is a recessed section on the left with a raised ledge. The following climbs are found on the right hand wall of this recessed section, the wall that faces you as you walk down the riverbed, and has a large gum tree at its right end.

Unconscious in a Pool of Blood, LHV 12m 20

The slightly awkward seam 2m left of the middle of the wall, up the wall to a rest pumpy moves then lead to a horizontal and a splendid juggy headwall. Mark Rewi, Iain Paterson 30/08/98

Unconscious in a Pool of Blood, RHV 12m 20

The more prominent line in the middle of the wall and 2m right of the LHV, gain the rest above the wall and continue as for the LHV. Iain Paterson, Mark Rewi 30/08/98

Unnamed 12m 17

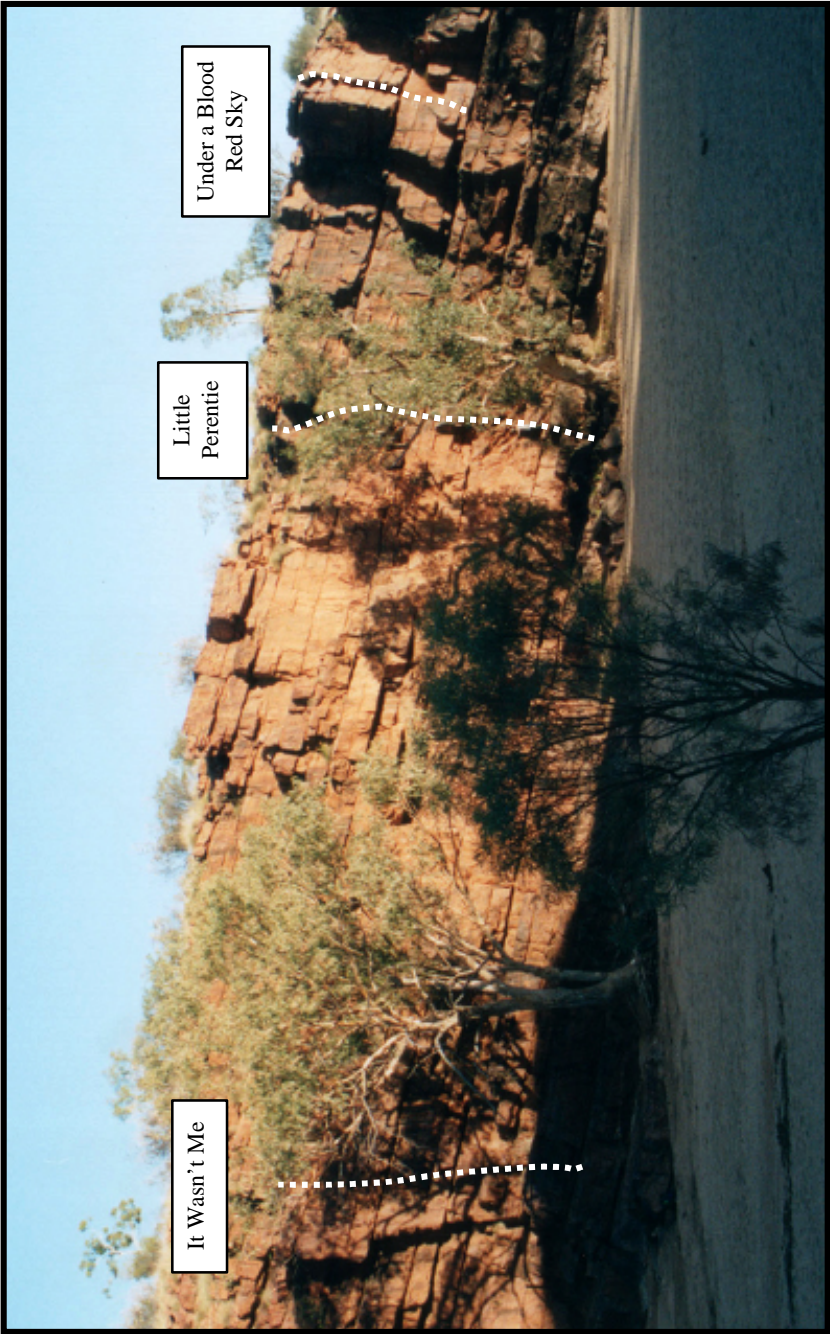
Up the crack 5m right of the RHV. Mark Rewi 2000

North Wall

Walk up the gorge and follow it as it veers to the right. North Wall is the left hand side of the gorge and although broken, offers some fun climbs. These are described from left to right.

It Wasn't Me 12m 10

Start at the base of the large flake at the left end of the wall, climb up the right trending line away from the flake to finish up a short clean headwall. Jason Geres, Justin Harrison, Krish Seewraj 02/02



Trephina Gorge - North Wall

Little Perentie 15m 14

Pleasant with an airy step, starting 30m right of IWM and behind a large old gum tree. Look for the two cavelets joined by a vertical crack. Start up the initial headwall to gain the first cavelet, continue up the crack and past the second cavelet and to the top. Then with pleasure ascend the short headwall that is recessed from the main face. Justin Harrison, Mark Rewi 2001

Something To Cry About 15m 14

Starting 5m right of LP, climb ledges and continue on a left rising line to reach the base of a rightward sloping slab/ramp. Up the ramp and squeezing behind a large block before exiting through a wide hand jamming crack. Krish Seewraj, Steve Warren 05/05/03

Under a Blood Red Sky 8m 20

The beautiful small hanging corner high up on the face 14m right of LP is steeper and harder than it looks. Scramble to the large block directly below the corner, from here exposed and unprotected moves gain the corner which is lay-backed and jammed until a horizontal break is reached, and just before a large loose block. Traverse left to gain and climb the vertical crack. Mark Rewi, Justin Harrison 2001

One Armed Bandit 15m 15

This climb begins at the same ledge from, and is approximately 6m right of, UBRS. Bridge up the short left facing corner then up and right to a ledge below a fun looking crack. Tackle the crack and wall immediately to its left to finish. Steve Warren, Krish Seewraj 05/05/03

South Wall

South Wall is on the right side of the gorge opposite North Wall. The following climb goes up the corner that is directly opposite Little Perentie.

Nothing To Serious 12m 11

Up the initial wall to reach the corner, fun climbing up this. Justin Harrison, Mark Rewi 2001

Unnamed 12m 17

A one move wonder that starts 10m left of NTS, up the lower wall to reach the large ledge, from here awkward moves to gain the crack in the upper wall, which is then followed at a much more relaxed pace. Mark Rewi 2000

Problem Wall

Problem Wall is the last clean face on the right side of the riverbed. It comprises a compact 8m wide and 7m high face with a horizontal ledge/break at mid-height. The right hand end of the wall is overhung and has some hard bouldery problems that were worked by Paul Cook, Ben Hodgins and Sam Latz (03/08/99). Alternatively use the following routes, which are described from left to right.

Impossible Mission 7m 15

Start up the thin seam in the middle of the blank lower wall, from the ledge up the blank headwall. Krish Seewraj (solo) 02/07/00

Cruise Control 7m 17

The shallow right facing corner about 1.5m right of IM, reach high for a small horizontal break and climb the short wall above to the ledge. Continue on the left trending crack through the leaning wall above. Krish Seewraj, Jarrod Holmes 02/07/00

MI-1 7m 20

The left of two bottomless corners capped with small roofs about 1.5m right of CC. Hard start up to the ledge using a creaky flake, then follow the much easier ragged right leaning crack. Krish Seewraj (solo) 02/07/00

MI-2 7m 22

An alternative and harder start to MI-1, up the right hand corner to reach the same ledge and continue as for MI-1. Krish Seewraj (solo) 02/07/00

Section 15.7 - Ross River

Ross River Homestead is at the far end of the Ross Highway, approximately 80km east from town. The Homestead has changed hands on numerous occasions over the last five years and was closed to the public in September 2002 and was still closed at the time of publishing this guide. However, rumour has it that the facilities will be reopened in early 2005 and will once again provide all the usual facilities. Previous managers have been receptive to climbers on the condition that no fixed gear or bolts are placed and commercial camping areas are used (i.e. camping at the homestead). It is worth checking so give them a call on 08 8956 9711.

Sphinx Rock, located within the land managed by the Homestead, is a spectacular looking limestone crag that stands out above the surrounding land. Take the dirt track on the left of the road 300m before you get to Ross River Homestead and follow this for 3km.

The rock is sharp and will test your pain threshold, with sparse gear in the upper sections of several of the climbs. To get off the main buttress walk west. The eastern buttress can be descended via an abseil down the main chimney. The following climbs are on the west buttress, called Sphinx Rock with the first climbs being located on the western face.

Sharp as Schick 15m 15

Sharp finger crack splitting the west face of Sphinx Rock, with good protection. Alison Garrett, J Beaudoin 05/95

Big Yerba Goes Forth 18m 19

The prominent crack about 4m in from the left end of the south face. Damian Auton 05/95

To the Elbow 15m 22

Follow a line of pockets at the right end of the face, just right of a major overhang. Lucas Trihey, Chris Jackson Robert McMahon 18/11/96

Bluff Burger 15m 22

Good climbing but poor protection makes it ground fall country, follow the thin groove 2m right of TTE. Lucas Trihey, Chris Jackson 18/11/96

The next two climbs are on the south side of the Sphinx's head, walk up the main ramp until below two cracks.

Jacko the Knife 10m 17

The left crack through a bulge. Lucas Trihey, Bruce Cameron, Heather Dutton, Chris Jackson, Robert McMahon 18/11/96

The Final Cut 10m 16

The right crack. Lucas Trihey, Heather Dutton, Chris Jackson 18/11/96

The next climb is on the north face of the Sphinx.

The Groper 20m 22

Entertaining thrash up steep line on the north face. Climb the pocketed crack 10m right of a saddle to a ledge, up more easily then move right below a dodgy block to easy ground. Simon Mentz, Ronnie Sammut, Glen Tempest 02/10/96

The next climb is on a small buttress between Sphinx Rock and the Eastern Bloc.

In for Your Cut 18m 18

A bold and run out climb, with a possible ground fall. Up the brown wall just right of an orange rock at the left end of the south face. Bruce Cameron, Robert McMahon 18/11/96

The next climbs are on the Eastern Bloc, surprisingly the buttress to the east of Sphinx Rock.

Horse's Head 15m 12

The crack that splits the west face of the buttress. Simon Watson, Lynne Robinson 05/95

The following climbs are found on the south face of Eastern Bloc.

Crankin' Canadian 15m 22

The line of pockets on the orange rock at the left end of the face, start just left of MEC. Traverse diagonally up and left to join the line of pockets (take some cams for the pockets). Paul Deacon, Annette Boelman 02/10/96

Mr Ed's Chimney 15m 14

The chimney at the left end of the face. Simon Watson, Lynne Robinson 05/95

Dabadoo 18m 19

A quality line with good protection right of MEC, up the right facing corner crack then up and through bulges to top. Paul Deacon, Kieran Culhane, Annette Boelman, Glenn Tempest 02/10/96

Two Days After the 70's 20m 18

Climbed the day after a great 70's party at Ross River. This is an attractive line up the crack right of D. Up a scoop on intricate jugs, then up where the line eases slightly, finishing up a wall near a bush on some fantastic (but dubious) metallic coated jugs. Damian Auton, Libby Evans 05/95

Child's Play 20m 19

Another good line, but difficult to place protection. Start 4m right of TDAT70s and follow the crack line to mantle at a ledge before veering right at the top. Goshen Watts, Eryne Hali 02/10/96

Jungle Fever 20m 23

Much better and harder than it looks, the prominent crack leading up from a small cave 4m right of CP. Head up through straggly jungle vine and past the cave, diagonally right and over the roof. Keep following the crack up and then diagonally left on reasonably solid rock, but be careful of the large precarious triangular block. Kieran Culhane, Goshen Watts 02/10/96

The following climbs are found on the north face of the Eastern Bloc.

Unnamed 15m 21

Locate the thin right leaning line 10m from the left end of the face. Follow the diagonal line with hard to find protection to an easier finish. Kirsty Hamilton, Malcolm Matheson 02/10/96

Talca 15m 17

This climb takes wider crack 2m right of U and traverses into the main line after 5m. Goshen Watts, Eryne Hali 02/10/96

Section 16 - Remote from Alice Springs

Section 16.1 - Boggy Hole

Deep Gully

Boggy Hole is a remote location for which a 4WD with high clearance is required. Depending on recent weather conditions, for some sections of this road you will require good 4WD experience. Drive west from Alice Springs and head for Hermannsburg, 12km before you get there or approximately 114km from Alice Springs there is a left turn onto an unsealed road that heads south to Boggy Hole. The road drops in and out of the Ellery Creek bed, and then continues along the Finke River bed. After 30km you'll reach Boggy Hole which has a campsite perched above the main water hole that is a haven for both year round and migrating birds. The campsite has no facilities but offers a great spot for bush camping.

The crags are located in the Finke Gorge National Park, and are a short ten minutes walk up Deep Gully north of the campsite. As you walk up the gully a rubbly and broken crag can be seen, this is where you will find Pre-emptive Strike. All other routes are located on the impressive looking, and uncharacteristically high and steep north west wall of the gully. The rock is generally good and offers some great climbing on impressive looking lines and ground. Due to the expansive nature of the wall, some of the climbs may be problematic in finding.

Pre-emptive Strike 40m 18

Look for the striking overhanging off width crack near the top of the rubbly looking cliff that faces you as you walk up Deep Gully. This climb starts at the strong line about 30 to 40m left of the line leading to this off width. Follow the nice corner to the slender white gum at half height, from here the climbing become easy but is fraught with loose rock. If you tackle this one make sure you have a group of doctors at hand just in case, as was the fortunate case during the first ascent. Rodney Angelo, Adrian Goldberg 13/11/2004

Oxymoron 40m 5

Walk upstream and the main crag on the north west side of the gully looms above, the creek in the base of the gully turns right and then immediately left. From this second turn look up and left for a wide crack that splits the cliff to the left of a striking overhang. This route follows the crack, with an airy crux for the grade of breaking through a small overhang low down. Garn Cooper, Rodney Angelo 09/04

Pelican 55m 12

Difficult to describe. This climb is about 20 to 30m downstream from P below a huge 'diving platform' at the top of the cliff, and follows a line through a little overhang at about 15 to 20m. Climb up the main line until after the overhang, then move right on to the nose and continue up to the huge ledge. Wander across to the left and finish up the attractive layback corner to belay on the left side of the 'diving platform'. Or finish on one of the other attractive lines. Garn Cooper, Kasia Gabrys, Rodney Angelo 10/04



Adrian Goldberg on One Skew Line - 15

Perspectivity 40m 16

There is a big roof at about 10m up 20m before a little waterhole. This climb starts up the line leading to the right side of this roof. Head up toward the roof until level with the bulge in the right wall. Swing right onto the wall and traverse 5m right into a left trending line. Continue up this through the crux bulge. About 8m above the crux a daunting flake induces a foray on the right wall to the little gum tree to belay, alternatively continue up PS. Garn Cooper, Shane Fewtrell 16/11/2004

Projective Space 55m 17

Approximately 10m right of P there is a beautiful overhanging left facing corner. Climb the magnificent corner until it relents at about 20m, then continue to the top passing two interesting bulges. Garn Cooper, Shane Fewtrell 16/11/2004

One Skew Line 55m 15

This climb goes up the middle of the headwall right of the corner of PS. Follow a left trending crack line to the right of a white gum at 20m, through the crux overhang down low to finish up a weakness off to the right of the main line. Garn Cooper, Rodney Angelo 10/04

Cyclomethane 55m 16

Right of OSL and around the corner is a beautiful thin crack up a slab with a roof halfway up it. Follow the crack to the roof, then traverse right into QA. Continue up QA until the big ledge then take the left hand finish. Daniel Harris, Grace Hermawan 13/11/2004

Quaternary Alcohols 55m 14

Starting up a small right facing corner a few meters right of C. Follow the corner to the large ledge and finish up the exciting right hand finish. Garn Cooper, Sinead Foster 13/11/2004

Equipotential 25m 13

Another one that is difficult to locate. Start at the top of the first waterfall, directly below a neat little corner that is located high on the wall with a small white gum. Climb straight up to the ledge below the gumtree. Descend to the right. Garn Cooper, Kasia Gabrys, Rodney Angelo 10/04

Section 16.2 - Running Waters

The harder way to reach this crag is to drive past Boggy Hole and continue until just past the southern end of the Finke Gorge National Park, approximately 28km from Boggy Hole. You will require good 4WD experience for some sections of this road and during wet periods it can be impassable. The longer but easier way is to drive 130km south from Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway, where a right turn can be made onto the Ernest Giles Road. This is followed for 47km before turning right to head towards Temple Downs, 13km along here make another right turn and follow the signs to Running Waters. The crag is a few kilometres north of the old Running Waters station and it is only for this last section that 4WD is required.

Located immediately south of the Finke Gorge National Park this crag is on land within the boundary of the now disused Running Waters Station. While the drive makes it the most isolated crag in this guide it does offer some of the best bush camping you are likely to encounter. This sandstone crag is north facing so do not bother going here in the summer time, it stands behind a waterhole that can get quite expansive and gives stunning views in the morning and evening light.

The rock is generally good but the compactness of the sandstone varies and, therefore so does the strength. On the whole, the crag is quite broken and while there are probably a few fun natural lines to be done the main attraction are two part bolted lines. These are located on the impressive detached flake in the centre of the wall. Who took the time to develop these routes is not known, and as such no details have been given of who climbed them or when they were established but after visiting the crag in June 2003 we gave them the following names.

Rough Ride 28m 18

This climb ascends a short recessed wall before going up a steep slab that forms the left end of the detached flake. A great line with two very contrasting pitches, the first of which can be avoided by scrambling in from the left. Starting below a steep crack below the left end of the detached flake.

1. 10m 18 Follow the crack with difficulty past a short but steep corner to gain a ledge.
2. 18m 17 From the ledge climb onto blocks to reach the east facing slab, which has five BRs. Follow the delightful line that gets steeper as you get higher, taking some wires for the mid-section.

Unknown Territory 28m ??

An amazing but scary looking climb that ascends the very steep front face of the detached flake, too hard for us at the time and probably going in at anything from 25 to 28. Look for the line of BRs that start just right of RR, climb direct until the face is reached where an airy right step is made. From here make a right trending line up the very thin and very steep mid-section to reach a narrow ledge, finish direct up the final wall.

Section 16.3 - Mt Connor

The 90m tabletop outcrop is often mistaken for Uluru. It is easily visible south of the Lasseter Highway and is located on Curtain Springs Cattle Station land. Permission to climb here was previously gained from Ashley Severin (08 8956 2906) and must be obtained for each visit. He provided information on access and camping and also provided the key to open the gate. You will need a \$50 deposit for the key, and they may ask you to make a donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service when you return it, please support this important Outback service.

Climbing is generally loose, though with further exploration some more solid rock might be found. Mt Connor is very remote and the adventurous nature of these climbs makes this an area for experienced climbers only, so beware. The campsite is at the base of the rock. Called Sunrise Camp, it is also known as Camp Hell in the hotter months by those crazy enough to be there then. From the campsite walk up the scree to northeast corner of the mount, the high walls and corners are evident with the most prominent corner being Herbert's Way. On top of the mount check for the repeater station and from here a descent can be made by scrambling down a gully, which comes out around the corner to the left of the main wall.

All Along the Choss Tower 70m 18

A wandering line that climbs some of the worst rock imaginable

1. 35m 12 Climb the right facing corner approx 20m left of HW. Up steeply, then follow the line to a ledge at 18m, traverse left across the rubble to belay on the arête.
 2. 35m 18 Up easy ground to large terrace. From a small cave at the foot of a corner head diagonally left up a horribly loose left wall to finish at a ledge. An easy walk leads to decent gully.
- Simon Mentz, Ronnie Sammut (alt) 04/10/96

Herbert's Way 85m 15

Lots of loose rock and a scary lead, taking the prominent corner and main line of the cliff.

1. 20m Left of the main corner with the detached buttress climb the obvious chimney crack and belay in a cave with long horizontal break extending left.
2. 20m Straight up the crack to belay in the corner.
3. 45m Continue up the corner crack to top.

Michael Herro, Fred Dubose, Collin Rowland 17/01/96

Herbert's Way (2nd Pitch Variant) 85m 15

Technically easier for the grade but the seriousness of the loose rock keeps the grade up.

1. 20m As for HW.
2. 20m From the cave climb diagonally up and left to the right of a line of three caves, now diagonally right along a ramp and back towards the main corner.
3. 45m As for HW.

Chris Peisker, Roxanne Wells (alt) 04/10/96

Slow Motion 48m 18

A surprisingly good quality route with good protection and decent rock. First climbed in 38 degrees, hence the name. From HW, scramble right along ledges and under the overhangs, around a semi-detached buttress to a solid looking inset face. Done in one pitch, the route follows the lovely finger cracks in the middle of the wall. Climb through a small black cave, with friable rock to start, but don't worry it gets much better. Kieran Culhane, Michael Hampton, Glenn Tempest 04/10/96

Section 16.4 - Kings Canyon

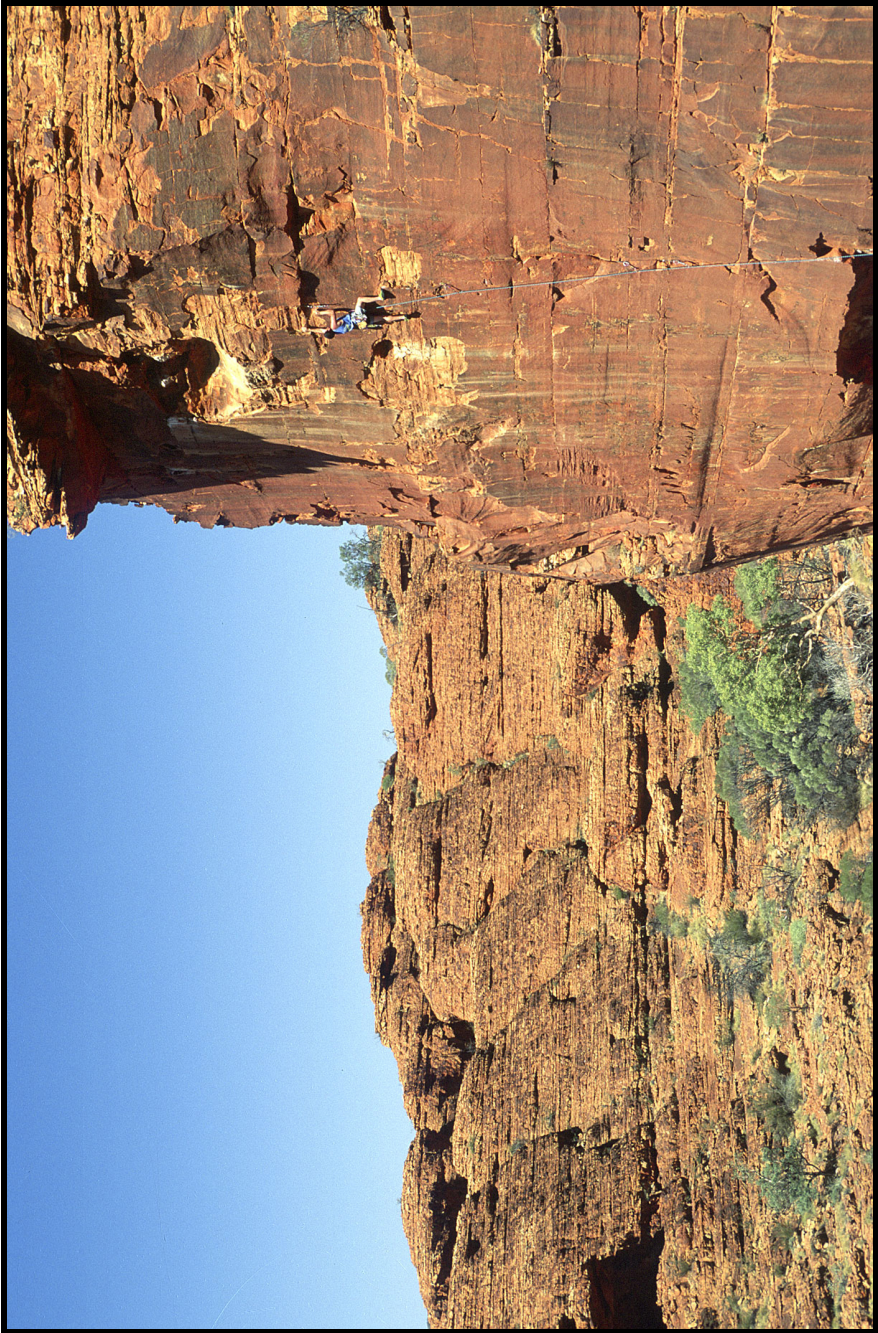
Watarrka or Kings Canyon, is a tourist Mecca. As well as being a National Park it is also of high significance in Indigenous culture, therefore climbing is strictly forbidden. There are however many side canyons, which have not been explored. In 1996 a small group of climbers approached the local Ranger and were granted permission to climb in one particular area, called Red Rocks. The following climbs were put up in that trip. Before climbing in the area, permission must be sought from the Ranger and access cannot be guaranteed.

Red Rocks offers excellent climbing. The rock is solid but soft in places and so the climbing is exciting. As it is a National Park bolting is not permitted, so expect airy climbing with long run outs. Getting to Kings Canyon is easy as it is on every map and most signposts. Once at the main car park the crag can easily be seen from the southeast corner. Red Rocks is the conglomeration of cliffs up and right of the circular Kings Canyon walking track. To get to it, cross a creek and then look for large smooth wall capped by a huge block. It should take no more than 10min to walk there.

The following three climbs are on the prominent Shield.

Rude Boys 20m 19

Really nice climbing with good pro. Facing the Shield, walk left to the end of the cliff and walk through the narrow corridor formed by a detached block and the main cliff. Inside this corridor look for the crack on your right, climb this all the way. Kirsty Hamilton, Jane Wilkinson, Kieran Culhane 07/10/96



Goshen Watts on the first ascent of The Viking - 22

Exile And The Kingdom 20m 20

A classic line up the left side of the Shield, the top face has poor protection and some gear was placed from an abseil on the first ascent. Towards the left end of the shield is a large overhang, walk around and up to this; the climb starts at a small bonsai fig as far right as you can go along the ledge. Up overhanging cracks and jugs, then traverse a little right then up to belay on big ledge. Goshen Watts, Michael Hampton, Mick Jaeger 09/10/96

The Viking 35m 22

Serious but classic climbing up the right side of the Shield. Good protection is hard to find and an abseil inspection is advisable. Up the small scooped corner to a ledge, tricky moves on poor protection lead to an imposing headwall (protected with a 6mm thread and small wires). Run it out to finish, just right of the roof. Goshen Watts, Paul Deacon, Michael Hampton, Damien Auton 08/10/96

Right of the Shield is a big wall capped by a huge block, named Red Wall with the following three climbs on it.

Hey Kutie! 12m 15

Starts 4m left of EDHHD. Climb the right trending diagonal crack, then directly up face to where the crack ends. Paul Deacon 08/10/96

A variant finish to Hey Kutie! is to continue up crack at top. Kirsty Hamilton, Jane Wilkinson 09/10/96

Every Day has his Dog 15m 23

Pumpy, this climb starts on top of the left end of the massive detached block. Step onto the crack (or climb direct), and follow through a scoop and horizontals, finishing up easier cracks and keeping left. Chris Peisker 08/10/96

The Odwalla Express 25m 21

Interesting architecture and great moves marred slightly by poor protection at the start, tackling the attractive orangey/brown wall just right of the massive detached block. Pull onto the wall and climb a giant detached flake, take cams and a sling for the top of the flake. From the top, traverse left and pull onto small hanging slab, up this moving right onto a ledge at half height. Follow the seam then finish through prominent curving crack. Simon Mentz, Ronnie Sammut, Michael Hampton 08/10/96

Section 16.5 - Davenport Ranges

The Davenport Ranges are located approximately 100km south of Tennant Creek, as the crow flies. To get there leave the Stuart Highway at Bonney Well, 90km south of Tennant Creek. The unsealed road leads to the two areas where public access is permitted, namely Whistleduck Creek (91km) and Police Station Waterhole (146km). Both locations can be accessed with a 2WD but it is advisable to check the road conditions prior to leaving, as they can deteriorate quite quickly. Basic campgrounds are available with the only amenities being toilets. Due to the uncertain management of the area bush camping is not presently permitted.

This area was proposed as a National Park in 1993. However, this status has still not been secured and as such the current situation as to land management is unclear. The listed climbs are located in the two areas detailed above. While occasional high quality rock can be found, the crags are very small and widespread and are therefore unlikely to entice many people. The following two climbs ascend the best looking cliff on the north side of Irrmweng Waterhole at Whistleduck Creek. The starts need to be accessed by descending from the right and left respectively.

Unnamed 15m 10

Start from rock platform at water level. Up the wide crack immediately left of this platform and finish up the proud slab. Garn Cooper, S Loi 22/05/04

Unnamed 15m 10

Approximately 15m left of U is a corner that continues up the whole crag. Ascend the corner taking care of loose rock near the small tree, above this there is some nice climbing. Garn Cooper, S Loi 22/05/04

The next climbs are very good but short. Walk upstream from the Police Station Waterhole for an hour, the southeast facing crag is located on the west bank of a waterhole.

Crab Line 7m 12

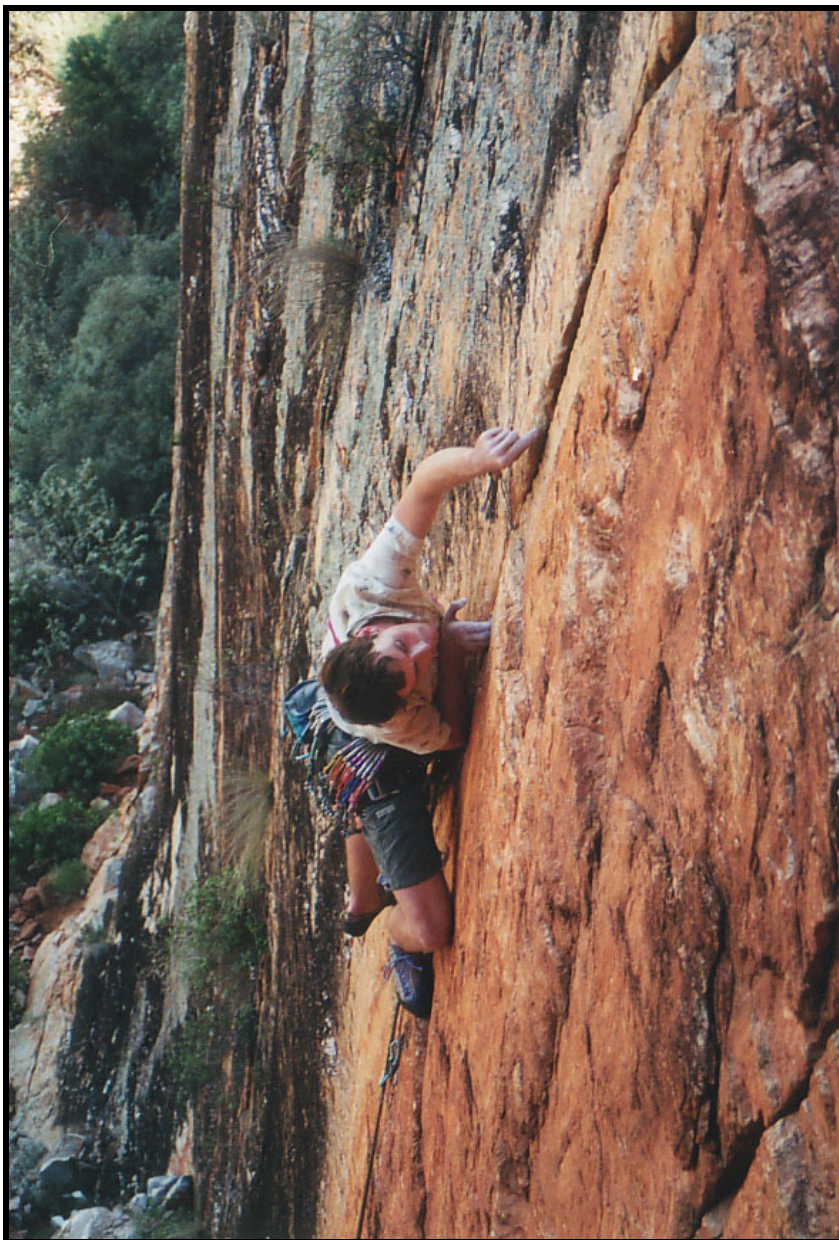
This climbs starts out of the water at the left end of the crag. A difficult start up a right trending crack approximately 2m left of an arête, at the headwall traverse right and around onto the main face to finish. Garn Cooper, G Davies 12/06/04

Guano Guano 8m 15

Starting 5m right of CL climb the vague weakness through two guano stained perches, at half height move right into and climb the corner. Garn Cooper, G Davies 12/06/04

You Can't Be Serious 7m 17

Climb the excellent overhanging right leaning corner 5m right of GG. Garn Cooper, G Davies 12/06/04



Pat Spiers on the first ascent of Gnome Napper - 20

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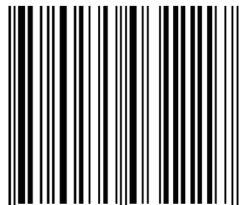
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ISBN 0-9750311-1-2



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